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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE

### LOCAL



The Joeten Charitable Foundation donates \$5,000 to the Club 200.

► PAGE 2

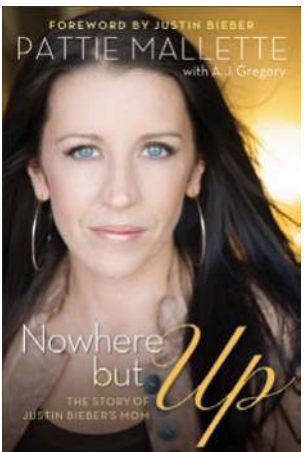
### NATION



Romney leads a chorus of Republican criticism of Obama's foreign policy.

► PAGE 13

### LIFE & STYLE



Justin Bieber's mom lays bare her painful past in a new book.

► PAGE 17

## \$5.55 an hour both 'good, bad'

► Nearly 30 government workers also affected

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Weeks and months ahead of a 50-cent increase in the CNMI's minimum wage on Sept. 30, many employers have already cut work hours to cushion its impact against a backdrop of lingering economic woes, high utility costs, a still uncertain transitional foreign worker program, and threat of a government shutdown. For some employees, the work hour cuts render "useless" any positive impact the new minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour would have on workers' take-home pay.

Other employers and workers that have prepared for this year's scheduled increase—after a delay in 2011—welcome the new rate.

The CNMI minimum wage will become \$5.55 an hour on Sunday, up from the current \$5.05 an hour. This is an 82-percent increase from only \$3.05 an hour before the enactment of the federal wage law in 2007.

The annual 50-cent increase in the CNMI will continue until it

See \$5.55 on Page 4

## Half of active members withdrawing Fund contributions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
[moneth\\_deposa@saipantribune.com](mailto:moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

More and more members of the NMI Retirement Fund program are withdrawing their contributions from the pension system for various reasons but majority are doing so to protect their savings and investment.

The Fund has already received 1,493 applications as of 5pm yesterday. This is more than half of the number of active Fund members.

See HALF on Page 4

## 2 regents ousted from NMC Foundation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER



Lizama

Members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents have voted to remove its two members from the NMC Foundation board—a decision described by its chairman as unconstitutional since regents do not have the power to make such a

See REGENTS on Page 4

Members of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents have voted to remove

### 4 DAYS BEFORE DEADLINE

## Budget panel OKs 1.9-pct. cut

► Fitial asks lawmakers to act 'swiftly' to prevent shutdown



House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), fourth from left, gestures as he talks about the latest numbers on a white board while other members of the conference committee on the \$114-million budget for fiscal year 2013 look on right before the resumption of their meeting yesterday afternoon.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial postponed yesterday's joint leadership meeting with lawmakers, hoping that the Legislature "will act swiftly

to prevent a government shutdown" four days before the Sept. 30 deadline. As of yesterday, a bicameral "compromise" bill has yet to be finalized.

Members of a six-member joint committee, nevertheless,

were able to break a lingering deadlock late yesterday afternoon when they approved an across-the-board cut of only 1.9 percent—instead of 5 to 8 percent as earlier planned—although this means a lower

budget for previously identified "priority" agencies such as the Public School System and Northern Marianas College.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa

See BUDGET on Page 4

So far, Rota has most absentee requests. PAGE 2  
EX-CHC employee, spouse indicted. PAGE 6



# Local

## So far, Rota has most absentee requests—commission

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The most number of requests for absentee ballots are so far from Rota, with almost half of requests coming from the CNMI's southernmost island, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero.

As of yesterday, the commission has already received 872 requests for absentee ballots, 402 of them from Rota voters, said Guerrero. The rest

are from Saipan (295) and Tinian (175) voters.

The commission generates a new list of absentee voters every election year and only mails out ballots upon request. Absentee voters can download the request form from the agency's website, [www.voteenmi.gov.mp/](http://www.voteenmi.gov.mp/).

Guerrero said the agency started this week the full tracking of all election data.

He disclosed that the 402 requests for absentee ballots from Rota is almost 50 percent of the 872 requests the commission

has received so far but is just 25 percent of the island's voting population, which has 1,709 registered voters.

Because the commission has until Oct. 12 to receive absentee requests, Guerrero expects the numbers to grow in the coming days.

In prior elections, the bulk of absentee voters come from Tinian and Rota. He described this year's preliminary absentee figure from Rota as a big improvement.

There are an estimated 1,500

absentee voters every election year in the Commonwealth.

According to Guerrero, absentee voters play a pivotal role every election year. In the 2009 elections, for example, he said 25 percent of the Commonwealth's turnout was absentee voters.

The commission continues to mail out absentee ballots to those who ask for them, but may need to stop the effort if a government budget is not enacted by the end of this month.

The government has until Sept. 30 to pass a budget; otherwise it will be forced to shut

down and that would include the commission.

Guerrero is hopeful that lawmakers will prevent the shutdown because it will impact the sending of absentee ballots to voters.

The early voting for the Northern Islands officially began last Saturday, but this has yet to start as the commission is still waiting for government boats that will travel to the islands. Guerrero said that no date has been confirmed yet for their

staff's travel to the islands.

Pursuant to law, early voting is authorized in the Northern Islands 45 days prior to the elections. Saipan, Tinian, and Rota get only 10 days for early voting.

The Northern Islands used to have only a 10-day window for early voting, resulting in huge expenses for the commission. The new 45-day window will allow the commission to save some \$7,000 to \$10,000, which is the cost of renting a boat for a few days.

## Zoning eyes reviving junk car removal program

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
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REPORTER

The Zoning Office is working on reactivating the islandwide junk car removal program, which was put on hold due to logistics issues.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogomoro said in an interview that their office has

come to an agreement with the Saipan Mayor's Office about the need to relaunch the program.

Started in April 2010, the Junk Car Removal Program is a collaborative effort of the Zoning Office, Saipan Mayor's Office, and participating recycling companies, with the purpose of getting rid of junk cars that have

become eyesores.

Ogomoro said the program has been delayed because the boom truck used by the Mayor's Office to tow junk cars is not working and no funding is available to repair it.

Ogomoro noted that Zoning personnel randomly tagged last month junk cars that were visible on public streets in San

Vicente and Garapan. She said some of the tagged junk cars were voluntarily removed by owners, while some sought the assistance of the Saipan Mayor's Office to get rid of them.

"We're hoping that everyone would start doing something immediately and deal with their tagged vehicles," said Ogomoro.

### Public nuisance

In other news, Ogomoro said the Zoning Office continues to issue notices of violation to those who do not comply with the Public Nuisance and Signs regulation under the zoning law.

The law defines public nuisance as "an unreasonable interference with a right common to the general public" and "does not change its character by reason of its location on private or public property, occupied or unoccupied property."

Ogomoro said that violators are given several days depending on the violation to come in and respond to the notice. "If they don't come in, then that's the time we impose a fine."

She said many of those who are given notices have been cooperative and would act on the notice to avoid penalties.

"Those who are repeaters and those who ignore our notices are the ones that end up paying the fines," added Ogomoro.

## Joeten foundation donates \$5K to Club 200

The Joeten Charitable Foundation, the charitable arm of the Joeten Group of Companies, has generously donated \$5,000 to the American Red Cross Annual Club 200 fundraising event that will be held on Oct. 6, 2012, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The Joeten Charitable Foundation was officially chartered on March 11, 1994, to foster charitable causes that promote the advancement of religion, education, health, and other related efforts that promote

the social welfare of the community. The Joeten Group of Companies—along with their affiliated companies, Saipan Shipping Company, Saipan Stevedore Company, and Pacifica Insurance Underwriters—will continue fostering charitable causes in the CNMI and elsewhere.

Frances T. Demapan, president of the Joeten Charitable Foundation, asked American Red Cross to seriously consider establishing a blood bank in



Joeten Charitable Foundation president Frances Demapan, fourth from left, presents a \$5,000 check to American Red Cross NMI Chapter board chair J.D. Guerrero, third from right, on Tuesday, Sept. 25, in a conference room at the Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe. Others in photo are, from left, Kennedy Benjamin, ARC health and safety manager; Shirley Sablan, Pacific Insurance Underwriters' general manager; Darlene Macaranas, Joeten Shopping Center's marketing manager; John Hirsh, ARC executive director; Clarence Tenorio, JCF trustee; and Bob Coldeen, ARC board member.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the CNMI. She said the Joeten Charitable Foundation believes that the American Red Cross

could partner with the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. in carrying out this mission for the

community. With this help, the CNMI chapter could further assist in helping or donating part

of its annual fundraising funds specifically for blood purchases to help support the Commonwealth Health Center.

"It is critical that we all join together to extend a helping hand to our one and only hospital to help them procure blood from the U.S.A., especially as they struggle in their everyday basic needs at CHC. This is one area that American Red Cross, together with its donors, that can help in making a difference especially in this critical time," Demapan said.

The Joeten Charitable Foundation will continue to support the CNMI community. With this donation, the JCF hopes it can achieve success in promoting worthy causes geared to the long-term interests of all businesses and the community. (PR)

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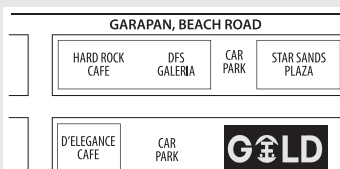
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# Camacho: DPL, Tasi Tours fail to demonstrate error

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho refused yesterday to reconsider his ruling and clarify the terms of the preliminary injunction he granted to five marine sports operator that are suing for access to Managaha Island.

In a five-page order, Camacho said that neither the Department of Public Lands nor Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc. has demonstrated that he committed a clear error.

Camacho said that DPL and Tasi Tours merely disputed his

application of the law but did not add anything more to their arguments.

"The arguments are virtually indistinguishable from arguments previously made [that] the court already considered," the judge said.

Further, Camacho said, given the court's broad discretion to set bonds, any asserted "inconsistencies" do not amount to a clear error.

As for DPL's and Tasi Tours' request for clarification about the preliminary injunction he issued, Camacho said both failed to show that any actual confusion exists on the scope

or intent of the injunction or the status quo.

"Instead, they have asked the court to rule on what appears to the court to be a hypothetical," he said.

As a result, Camacho said, he declines to clarify his order at this time.

Tasi Tours, through counsel Rexford C. Kosack, requested clarification of Camacho's Aug. 22, 2012, order regarding the bond requirement for the preliminary injunction.

Kosack said that Camacho issued the preliminary injunction without giving the security



Camacho

for the payment of all the damages that might be suffered by Tasi Tours—contrary to the Rules of Civil Procedure.

DPL, through counsel assistant attorney general Michael Wilt, supported Tasi

Tours' motions. DPL asserted that the court's order is internally inconsistent and leaves Tasi Tours, a concessionaire of DPL, effectively unsecured.

"Clarification is necessary to the DPL because the DPL is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the rights of Tasi Tours made pursuant to their concession agreement with the

DPL," Wilt said.

In the marine sports operators' response to the motions for reconsideration and clarification, attorney Mark Scoggins stated that the filing of the motions is part of Tasi Tours' strategy to litigate them to death.

Scoggins said his clients are also wondering why DPL finds it necessary to file pleadings in support of Tasi Tours' motions.

"DPL is using government resources for this improper purpose, and the motion should be summarily denied," according to Scoggins, counsel for the five marine sports operators.

In denying the motions, Camacho said "the bond amount places an extremely onerous burden on [the petitioners]" and as a result, "the requirement

that petitioners post the full bond amount as a pre-requisite to injunctive relief effectively denies them judicial review."

The judge said he fashioned an equitable remedy consistent with that conclusion.

The preliminary injunction that Camacho issued last July 19 granted the marine sports operators' request to maintain the status quo on Managaha access until their lawsuit against DPL is decided on its merits.

Island Marine Sports Inc., Aquatic Marine Co. Inc., Automarine Inc., Seahorse Inc., and BSEA Inc. are suing DPL to invalidate the department's "rule" that prohibits them from picking up customers with whom they have made prior arrangements from Managaha Island.

## Three vie for NMC STUCO presidency

»Over 120 cast votes on first day of elections

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

Three candidates are vying for this year's student council president of the Northern Marianas College.

Running for the presidency of the Associated Students of Northern Marianas College are Lawrence E. Camacho and Antonio Tipples, both former student council presidents, and first-time candidate Chenglong "Alex" Shen.

The president of the college's student council gets an honorary seat on the Board of Regents.

Camacho was president last school year and is currently taking up a degree in elementary education. Tipples, who was the top student leader in school year 2010-2011, is a special education program student at the college, while Shen is with the liberal arts program.

The election for the AS-NMC's new officers is slated for two days, Sept. 25 and 26, from 9am to 6pm at the Student Center.

The council's elections coordinator, Queanna C. Sablan, noted that over 120 students have already cast their votes as of noon yesterday.

Other positions up for grabs are one seat each for vice president, secretary, and treasurer, and three seats for council senators.

Vice president candidate Richard Pizarro is running unopposed this year. For treasurer, the candidates are Faithful Mendiola, Anne Julia Padilla, and Evert Van Der Maas. Two are vying for the council's secretary post: Jolly Ann Cruz and Christina Shaunte Tudela. For senators, the candidates are Daniel Isaac Brown, Jae Hee Kim, Christina Shaunte Tudela, and Evert Van Der Maas.

Last week, the three presidential candidates faced each

other in an hourlong debate on issues affecting students. The candidates were asked about their views on security on campus, the online registration system, designated smoking areas for students, and student parking.

Leo Pangelinan, NMC dean of Student Services, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that students were given the opportunity to know their candidates prior to yesterday's elections. The candidates were allowed to campaign on campus for a certain period of time.

All registered students this fall semester are entitled to vote.

Pangelinan said the college expects a turnout of over 400 by the end of the polls today.

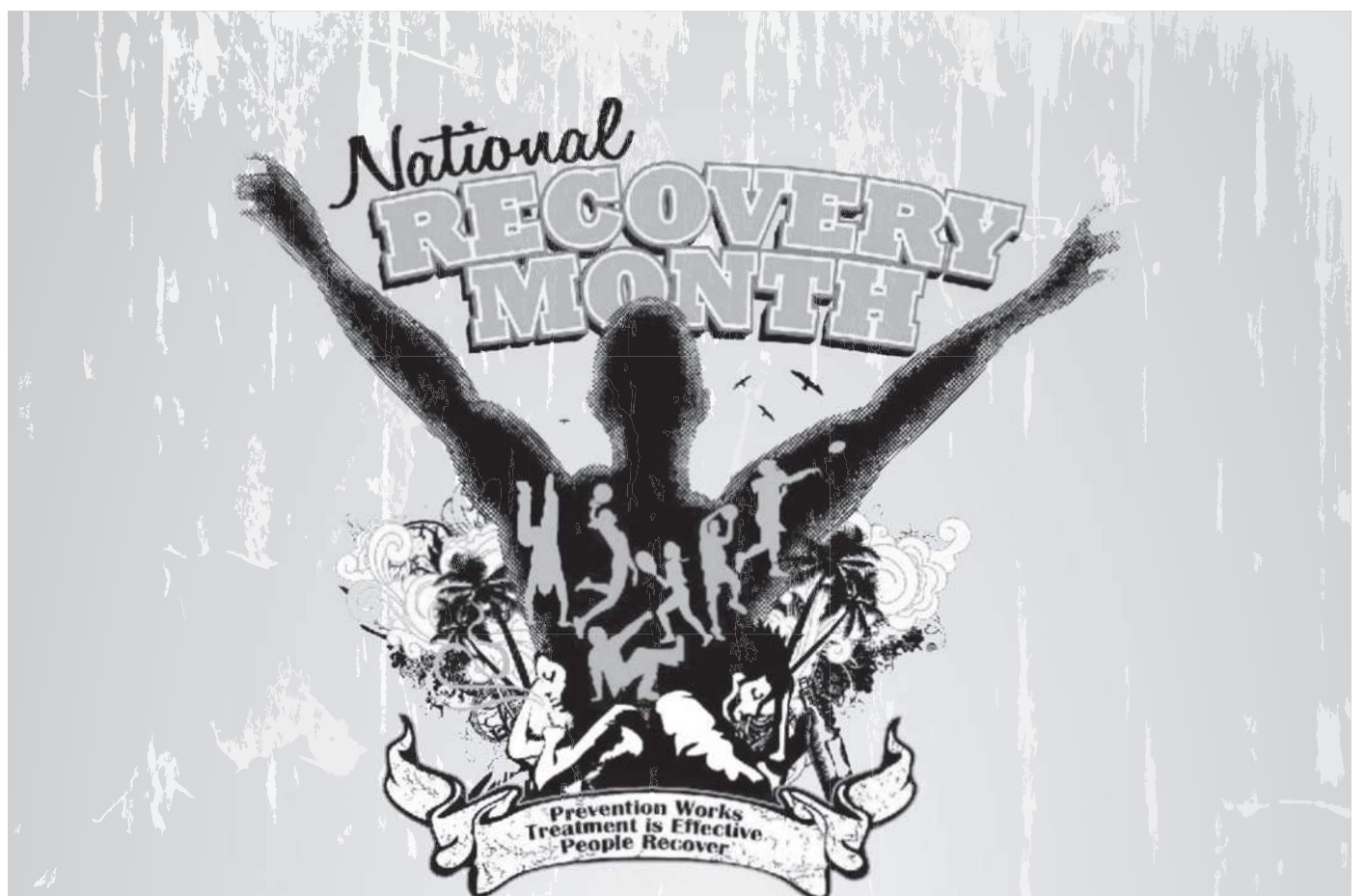
The results of the election will be known tonight as soon as the ballots are tabulated and counted.

For the result to become official, ballots must be certified by Pangelinan's office, representatives of the ASNMC, and the Office of Student Activities and Leadership, among others.

The term of the ASNMC president is throughout the duration of the school year, with extension through the summer period. To keep the position, the student leader must maintain a GPA of 3.0.

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**\$5.55**

From Page 1

reaches the U.S. federal minimum wage floor of \$7.25 an hour.

"It's useless for us because our work hours were cut from 40 to 32 hours a week on Sept. 1 because of low occupancy. So even if the minimum wage will become \$5.55 an hour, if our work hours are cut, we will still have less take-home pay," a 61-year-old minimum wage earner at Saipan World Resort told *Saipan Tribune*.

Another employee said her work hours were cut from 40 to 36, so she does not expect any positive impact from the minimum wage hike. "It's not really helpful," she said.

These hotel employees asked that their names be withheld from publication for fear of losing their jobs.

**'Prepared'**

Juan I. Tenorio, human resource manager for Hafadai Beach Hotel in Garapan, said yesterday that their 434-room hotel has prepared for the minimum wage increase so this is not something they are too worried about.

"We're not as impacted as the other companies because we prepared for this. We have 30 to 36 employees that are covered by this latest increase, out of 88 employees. Because of the economy, we've gone from having 256 employees to only 88 but we've managed to operate the hotel efficiently," he said.

While they have long implemented work hour cuts, Tenorio

said their employees earn overtime pay when hotel occupancy rate is high.

Daniel Taitingfong, resident manager for Townhouse Supermarket in Chalan Kanoa, said their companies—including 99 Cents in Garapan and San Jose Mart in San Jose—will comply with the 50-cent increase but he said this will "have a bit of an impact on our overhead cost."

Taitingfong said their company will absorb the added cost but depending on the sales in the months ahead and the impact of the minimum wage increase on their business cost, then they will have to weigh their options. The three major stores have some 100 employees.

"All our plans are tentative. If it requires that we cut work hours, then we would consider that but it's not the only option," he said.

**'Passing on to consumers'**

Douglas Brennan, president of the over 150-strong Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that "most labor intensive operations like hotels, construction companies, and service companies have already reduced their workforce and work hours as much as they can as a result of past increases in wage rates."

"After that, there's no option but to pass those increases on to consumers," he said.

Brennan, general manager of Microl Corp. and secretary of the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association, said the Chamber "didn't believe 2010 was a good year to increase wages, or 2011, or 2012."

"In fact, I can't think of a good year to have a mandatory increase in wage rates," he added.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the Fitial administration shares the concerns the business community has raised on the minimum wage hike.

"The current economic situation is already a major challenge to our business community. Adding another obstacle would make it even harder for businesses to flourish. Businesses should be granted reprieve during these hard times so that they can remain open and continue to contribute to our economy," the press secretary said.

Rep. Joe Palacios (R-Saipan), meanwhile, supports the annual minimum wage hike, which he said has been in discussion since 1978.

"When the Covenant was still being negotiated, we were given five years to build our minimum wage. But we've always held it off. In the '80s, when the economy was booming, we also asked that it be suspended even though that was the best time to increase salaries. So the federal government did it for us, when the U.S. president signed that minimum wage increase law [in 2007]. I hope there won't be any more suspension [of the annual 50-cent increases] just like in 2011," Palacios said.

**'Dignified wage'**

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said he looks forward to the new minimum wage of \$5.55 an hour, even as he completely disagrees with the national Republican position that the minimum wage restricts progress.

"Northern Marianas workers deserve to earn a dignified wage for the work they do," Sablan said.

The delegate said the CNMI has many families barely getting by and will benefit from bigger paychecks.

"And when they spend that money, it will be good for our local economy. The national Republican platform says that minimum wage restricts progress in the private sector. I cannot agree with that philosophy. I have seen for myself that increasing the minimum wage improves prospects for thousands of people in the Northern Marianas," he said.

House Commerce and Tourism Committee chair Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) said the minimum wage increase has "good and bad" effects.

"Just like when the first minimum wage increase was implemented, employers took away some benefits such as free housing and transportation so workers said they would rather keep their housing benefits than get a minimum wage increase. But then again, it depends on the employers," Villagomez said.

Other non-minimum wage earners have also been expressing concerns over equality and fairness, because they are stuck with their salaries but not the minimum wage earners who will see a 50-cent increase an hour.

Again, Villagomez said this still boils down to the employers' decisions.

Another 42-year-old minimum wage earner said his current work hours are only 76 hours biweekly instead of the

regular 80 hours.

"But there were times when I was asked to work overtime so I am able to work more than 80 hours biweekly. But that's not happening all the time. So in my case, my salary depends on the number of customers we have, not because of minimum wage, although that will really help if we have regular work hours and overtime pay all the time," the Garapan resident said.

**Government also impacted**

The CNMI's private employers are not the only ones impacted by this latest round of minimum wage increase.

The press secretary said there are "nearly 30 government personnel whose pay grades are being adjusted to comply with the forthcoming minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour."

Demapan said the bulk of these personnel come from the Department of Corrections and the Department of Public Works.

He said the administration has prepared for this minimum wage hike.

"OPM [Office of Personnel Management] is already in the process of making these adjustments. These positions are budgeted as the anticipated increase was included in the budget plan submitted for the new fiscal year," he said.

**Future increases**

Brennan said the Saipan Chamber of Commerce has not requested a suspension of future federal wage increases, but it "has gone on record supporting the implementa-

tion of industry review committees as suggested by Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta."

Demapan, for his part, said "if the economic conditions continue to warrant a delay, then yes," the Fitial administration will support a delay in the minimum wage increase for 2013.

Hafadai Beach Hotel's Tenorio supports an annual increase in minimum wage until it reaches the federal level.

"It is the law and it is up to us to cut costs. We want our staff to be happy, and a happy staff equals productivity," said Tenorio, a former government personnel director.

Delegate Sablan said he understands just how fragile the local economy is. He said that's why, after consulting with workers, businesses, and economic analysts in the federal government, he proposed to skip the annual 50-cent minimum wage increase in 2011. That delay was signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010.

The delegate also moved the annual increase from May to September to allow more time to study the impact of each year's increase, again by changing federal law.

But Sablan said "apparently, (his) legislative skill and openness to local constituents are not enough for national Republicans. The [GOP recently] approved a party platform in Tampa that says, 'Pacific territories should have flexibility to determine the minimum wage, which has seriously restricted progress in the private sector. A stronger private sector can raise wages.'"

**BUDGET**

From Page 1

(Cov-Saipan), chairman of the conference committee, said PSS will be getting only some \$32 million instead of \$33 million.

Basa, however, pointed out that the 1.9 percent and the PSS and NMC budgets could still slightly change when the numbers are crunched and the bill language is reviewed today.

He said the conference com-

mittee also decided to "chop down" the budgets of some agencies and programs such as the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs versus the governor's budget submission.

"We debated all these cuts. We had no choice but to cut so that we can have a balanced budget," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said the funding for PSS and NMC, along with other agencies, will have to be

cut compared to the conferees' earlier plan to "balance" the budget, capped at \$114 million for fiscal year 2013.

Taimanao said additional flights from China will bring in more tourists to the CNMI and this will translate to additional revenue that the government can later give to PSS and other critical agencies.

Both Basa and Taimanao said the budget bill should be ready by today, to be presented to the full House and Senate.

Senate President Paul Man-

glona (Ind-Rota) scheduled yesterday a Thursday session at 1pm to act on the budget.

Fitial, in his letter yesterday to Manglona and House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), said with just days remaining in this fiscal year, "It is my fervent hope that your conferees will act expeditiously to break any deadlocks so that a budget bill can be acted on as soon as possible."

A partial shutdown could mean temporary loss of job for over 1,400 government employ-

ees starting on Monday, Oct. 1.

Only so-called critical positions will be exempted from a shutdown, including doctors, nurses, police officers, corrections officers, and utility response crews.

Cabrera said it's "good" that the governor postponed the meeting so that lawmakers can prioritize the passage of a budget.

"We want the employees to report to work on Monday. Maybe the [leadership] meeting can be held next week, once the budget is passed and signed," Cabrera said.

**HALF**

From Page 1

Active members are government employees who are under the program's defined contribution plan.

Acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan told *Saipan*

*Tribune* yesterday that the number of applications is expected to grow in coming days since the agency has set no deadline for refund applications.

Pangelinan said she has yet to approve any application because of the ongoing review of documents.

The newly signed Public Law

17-82 authorizes members to withdraw their contributions from the Fund.

Pangelinan could not immediately say when the first batch of refunds will be released.

Due to several requests to change some information in members' refund applications,

the Fund set a 15-day deadline to make any changes to their information.

"Prompted by refund distribution changes requested by at least a dozen members, the Fund would like to inform active and inactive DB plan members who have submitted or will be submitting their

applications for refund of contributions that they have 15 calendar days from the date they submit their applications to withdraw their request for a refund or to make any changes to their refund distribution," a Fund statement issued yesterday said.

It added that such changes

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) separately said the governor was "right on" when he pointed out that "the utmost priority is passing a budget."

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, in an interview at the Legislature yesterday, said conferees "need to compromise."

He said government employees are already struggling because of work hour cuts to begin with, and a shutdown would worsen their situation.

can be accomplished by submitting a request in writing to the agency. Members will be barred from making any changes after the 15-day grace period.

The Fund encourages members to check the status of their applications on the agency's website.

**REGENTS**

From Page 1

move.

Regents chair Juan T. Lizama confirmed with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he and Frank Rabauliman, who chairs the board's fiscal and personnel committee, were removed from the Foundation board in a meeting in June.

The Regents chair and chairperson of the fiscal and personnel committee have traditionally represented the Board of Regents on the Foundation board since its inception.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Lizama has continued attending

Foundation board meetings, unlike Rabauliman who was one of those who voted yes to remove himself from the board.

"I have a fiduciary responsibility and that's the law. If I will stop attending these [Foundation board] meetings, that would be a dereliction of duty. Yes, the Board of Regents voted to get rid of us in the Foundation board, but I refused to acknowledge that because the BOR has no authority to appoint or remove membership in the Foundation," Lizama told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

He said the Board of Regents is only authorized to "oversee and monitor" the Foundation's \$3-million money, but not "gov-

ern" its operation.

"My challenge now is: for the BOR to understand the meaning of the existing Foundation, its total characteristic, and the purpose behind its creation. In having a new foundation board, it doesn't mean we will phase out the 'old' foundation," he said, citing the benefits that the college can derive from the new foundation.

According to Lizama, his colleagues decided to oust him and Rabauliman from the Foundation board after he "aggressively pleaded" with members to approve the creation of a separate, new foundation for NMC. Lizama admitted that he was among those who agreed to the creation

of another foundation for NMC, but admits to being surprised at how "things have moved quicker than expected."

Lizama believes the consultant's contract recently signed by the new foundation should have not been approved without first resolving the many issues surrounding the new foundation. Among these is the certification from the IRS.

He said the establishment of "MOUs" for the new foundation is also needed before any contract is inked. He also raised concern on the "composition" of both foundations, which he said has so far the same names of officers—a clear conflict.

In an earlier interview with

NMC Foundation board chair Dr. Alan Markoff, he said an \$8,000 contract has been approved for Steven West, the husband of NMC president Sharon Hart, Ph.D., to develop a plan on how the new foundation will be run. Markoff was off-island yesterday when contacted for comments and has yet to return this reporter's call.

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from Hart yesterday but the college said that it is unable to give specific updates at this time because key foundation board members are off-island and not returning until the second week of October.

"The Foundation board does plan to meet the end of the month

(October) and new board membership and other important matters will be on their agenda. Also, the BOR and the new Foundation are developing an MOU, but again that is not expected to be completed until late October/early November," a statement from the college stated yesterday.

Sources privy to the issue disclosed that prior to voting for the removal of BOR representatives from the Foundation board, the regents sought a legal opinion and were told that there is no law that prohibits the BOR from removing its members from the Foundation. Thus, a motion was made and approved by all members, except Lizama.



## State parent council vows stronger support for PSS

Parent leaders representing the Commonwealth's public schools vowed to further strengthen their roles in supporting and complementing school leaders and education policymakers' ongoing effort in promoting student achievement.

During yesterday's gathering of the State Parent Advisory Council of the Public School System, parent leaders acknowledged their "direct roles in allowing children to learn and succeed while in school."

"In the past four [school] years we saw how our students continue to perform well with our state mandated testing. The outcome is a shared success both for our schools and our parents," Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., said yesterday. "We can replicate this success this school year once again with you as our partners standing alongside us."

Since school year 2008-2009, student performance in the Stanford Achievement Test and Standards-Based Achievement continue to increase. At the closing of the last school year, both SAT 10 and SBA results were at all-time highs.

This is coupled with a high percentage of high school graduates pursuing college and career.

Yesterday, parent leaders acknowledged the need to sustain the momentum.

"What our children have achieved in the last school year...and in the past four years is about being there for them. This new school year let us continue this commitment

in supporting [PSS]," said William S. Reyes Elementary School PTSA president Janice A. Tenorio.

The parent advisory council also elected its new set of leaders to serve for a one-year term.

Tenorio was unanimously voted as president. She succeeds Editha Taimanao from Rota.

"As Dr. Sablan pointed out, education is also about partnership. Let us remain committed and involved in improving student learning," Tenorio said.

Laura Manglona, Sinapalo Elementary School PTSA president, was re-elected vice president.

Elected state secretary was parent Fausia Dela Cruz, president of San Antonio Elementary School PTSA.

Tinian Junior Senior High School PTSA president Augusta Famaw was re-elected treasurer.

In yesterday's meeting, Sablan also hailed Kimo Rosario's contribution to the promotion of parental involvement and the community partnership strategy of PSS. Rosario was the former state parental engagement coordinator for PSS.

"I would like to commend Kimo Rosario for his effective role in the last two years. He did a lot particularly in officially starting many parent/community-related activities that are now in place," Sablan said. "Thank you Kimo for your commitment and good work."

Rosario is now the vice principal of Kagman High School.

Frances Ulloa was named interim state parental involvement coordinator. (PSS)

## Kin await Marine's body

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidEE\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The family of the late U.S. Army Specialist Joselyn Tara Mafnas Sablan said yesterday they're hoping to know by today the date of the body's arrival on Saipan, even as another family is hoping that U.S. Army Specialist Robert Santos Deleon Guerrero will recover from his ordeal.

"Hopefully by Wednesday we'd hear from the Army about the body's arrival. The nightly rosary continues at Santa Soledad in Kagman," Sablan's aunt, Frances Mafnas, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Sablan served in Iraq in 2010 and was supposed to turn 24 on Oct. 13. She passed away last week in Fort Hood, Texas where she was stationed. Her family said the Army has yet to complete its investigation on the cause of her death.

Sablan, the eldest child of Joseph and Rosa Sablan of Kagman, was a graduate of Kagman High School and described by her aunt as a "family-oriented" person.

Sablan's death brings to 18 the number of CNMI sons and

daughters serving in the U.S. military that lost their lives since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and since the U.S. war on terror in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Meanwhile, Juan "Pan" Guerrero and Herman "Pan" Guerrero separately said yesterday that their nephew—Robert Deleon Guerrero—remains on life support in Tennessee and the whole family is praying for his recovery.

Juan "Pan" Guerrero said the family is waiting for the arrival in Tennessee of the patient's brother, who is also serving in the military and is currently stationed in Afghanistan.

The Army specialist's parents, Florencio Deleon Guerrero and Lucy Santos Deleon Guerrero, arrived yesterday in Tennessee to be with their son.

"My nephew is still in life support. We ask that you include him in your prayers," Herman Guerrero, a Board of Education member, said yesterday.

Messages of encouragement and prayers for Deleon Guerrero and his family abound in social media.

"We are keeping you and your whole family in our prayers," one of them said on Facebook.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Newly-elected officers and members of the Public School System's State Parent Advisory Council, headed by its president Janice A. Tenorio, center, are joined by education leaders led by Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D., the PSS leadership team, and school principals, for an official photo following yesterday's gathering.

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### PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF TWO (2) SALT WATER OUTBOARD MOTOR ENGINE PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-008-12

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of two (2) Salt Water Outboard Motor Engine for CPA's watercraft Boston Whaler.

The proposal must include all costs for parts, accessories and labor in the installation of these engines including electrical components which may not be part of the engine accessories but must be installed in order that these engines may operate with maximum efficiency. Proposers are invited to inspect the water craft before submission of proposals.

The proposal shall include a factory warranty and must be able to provide maintenance and service agreement for two (2) years with ability to conduct on-site assessment and repair.

Proposers shall guarantee delivery of these engines to CPA within 60 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

The Specifications of the Engines will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on September 4th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of two (2) Salt Water outboard motor engine". One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, September 26th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of the engines is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO  
Executive Director

# Former CHC employee, spouse indicted for alleged fraud, theft

A federal grand jury has indicted a former employee of the Commonwealth Health Center and his wife on 59 charges for allegedly conspiring and engaging in health care theft, fraud, and money laundering, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office yesterday.

Melvin G. Ada and his wife Leyda I. Ada were each charged with conspiracy to commit theft or embezzlement in connection with health care (Count 1); theft or embezzlement in connection with health care (Counts 2 to 20); conspiracy to commit health care fraud (Count 21); health care fraud (Counts 22 to 30); conspiracy to commit money laundering (Count 31); and money laundering (Counts 32 to 59).

Melvin G. Ada was previously employed at CHC as a medical supply specialist, and Leyda I. Ada used to be a sales representative for Midwest Medical Supply Co., Inc., a Missouri company that had supplied dialysis consumables and equipment to CHC.

The indictment, filed on Sept. 24, 2012, alleges that from January 2006, through August 2011, the couple misappropriated and diverted 46 CNMI Treasury checks made payable to MMS totaling over \$1.7 million and deposited these checks in bank



Limtiaco

accounts they controlled.

In some instances, Melvin G. Ada allegedly modified legitimate MMS invoices and created false MMS invoices to cause CHC and CNMI Treasury to issue the checks.

The money laundering charges relate to Melvin G. Ada's and Leyda I. Ada's alleged financial transactions that were designed to hide the stolen funds, and Leyda I. Ada's alleged use of the health care fraud proceeds to withdraw cash in excess of \$10,000.

"This investigation shows that federal and local law enforcement agencies will pursue those individuals who engage in health care fraud to ensure the integrity of health care benefit programs" said Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The maximum penalties for

a violation of conspiracy to commit theft or embezzlement in connection with health care is five years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, restitution, and three years supervised release.

For a violation of theft or embezzlement in connection with health care, the maximum term of imprisonment is 10 years, a \$250,000 fine, restitution, and three years supervised release.

For a violation of either conspiracy to commit health care fraud or health care fraud, the maximum term of imprisonment is 10 years, a \$250,000 fine, restitution, and three years supervised release.

For a violation of either conspiracy to commit money laundering or money laundering, the maximum term of imprisonment is 20 years, the greater of a \$500,000 fine or twice the value of the monetary instruments or funds involved, restitution, and three years supervised release.

Assistant U.S. attorneys Marivic P. David and Garth R. Backe are prosecuting the case. The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and a joint CNMI Task Force.

An indictment is merely an allegation. The defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. (USAO)



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### PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF FOUR (4) UNITS SPORT UTILITY VEHICLE PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-12

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of four (4) units sport utility vehicles.

The proposal shall attach a factory warranty and must be able to provide 2 years maintenance and service agreement for all four vehicles.

Proposers shall guarantee delivery of these vehicles to CPA within 60 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

The specifications of these vehicles will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on September 4th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of four (4) Sport Utility Vehicles" One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, September 26th, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of these vehicles is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO  
Executive Director



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### PROCUREMENT AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) MARITIME BOAT PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-010-12

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the procurement and delivery of one (1) Maritime Boat to the island of Tinian.

The proposal shall attached a manufacturer warranty and include a two (2) years maintenance and service contract on the engine, boat and accessories to be provided on the island of Tinian.

Proposer shall guarantee delivery of this boat to CPA within 60 days from closing date of this proposal and at which time; CPA will make payment within 10 days thereafter.

The specifications for the boat, engine and accessories will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on September 4th, 2012.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement and Delivery of a Maritime Boat" One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Local Time, September 26, 2012, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the proposal submittal deadline shall be returned to the proposer unopened.

Should a proposer find discrepancies in, or omission from, the description or specifications contained herein, proposer shall at once notify Ms. Kay Inos at telephone numbers 664-3550 or 664-3560 respectively, and should it be found necessary, a written addendum will be sent to all proposers. Proposers must guarantee that any or all equipment found defective at the time of delivery must replace equipment within 60 days from date of first delivery to Tinian.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for; (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement project would not be in the best interest of the CPA. The CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This Request for Proposal shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

Funding for the procurement of this boat is made possible by the 2009 Port Security Grant Program from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO  
Executive Director



# 2 US soldiers allegedly beat up Korean tourist

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

A tourist is suing in federal court two members of the U.S. military special force who allegedly beat him up outside the G.I.G. Discotheque in Garapan.

Korean national Ki Pung Kwon filed a lawsuit yesterday against U.S. military special force members Carl Weight Jr. and Marty Joel Lopez for assault, battery, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Kwon, through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold the defendants liable to pay him damages, attorney’s fees, and court costs.

According to the complaint, Kwon and a friend named Tony went to the G.I.G. Discotheque on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012, at 12:30am.

Tony left G.I.G. some 30 minutes later but Kwon called him at 2:40am and asked to be picked up.

As Kwon was getting inside

## ‘NMI must do its part to end domestic violence’

### »October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI will join the rest of the U.S. in observing National Domestic Violence Awareness Month this October, kicking off with a proclamation signing ceremony today at the Governor’s Office on Capital Hill.

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month Committee members from the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence and the Family Violence Task Force are at the helm of the month-long event dedicated to raising awareness about the issue.

This year’s theme is “Choose Peace, Not Violence,” which challenges the people of the Northern Marianas to do their part to end domestic violence, according to committee chair Angelyn Nimwes.

“Throughout October, we will mourn for those whose lives were taken by domestic violence, celebrate the tremendous progress victim advocates have made over the years, and connect with one another with a true sense of unity to end domestic violence,” said Nimwes.

One in four women will be a victim of domestic violence at some point in her lifetime, with an average of three women being killed every day at the hands of a current or former intimate partner, according to a coalition leaflet.

The coalition said the economic downturn in the CNMI can aggravate the issue by having a devastating effect on local

Tony’s vehicle, Weight and Lopez allegedly began taunting and assaulting Kwon.

Quichocho said that when Kwon got into the vehicle, one of the defendants opened the door and punched and hit Kwon.

Weight and Lopez allegedly pulled Kwon out of the vehicle and continued beating and taunting him.

Tony got down the car and tried to stop the beating but one of the defendants stood in front of him and allegedly threatened him.

Tony then called the police, prompting the defendants to run away.

Quichocho said that Tony tried to pick up the unconscious Kwon, but saw that his head was covered with blood.

An ambulance brought Kwon to the Commonwealth Health Center where he received several stitches to the head.

Quichocho said that Kwon also sustained lacerations and bruises in other parts of his body and head and that he also lost a lot of blood.

programs that serve survivors of abuse, providing fewer options for these survivors to break away from violence.

The 2012 Mary Kay Truth About Abuse Survey showed that a vast majority of domestic violence shelters experienced funding cutbacks even as nearly eight out of 10 of these shelters nationwide reported an increase in women seeking help.

Guma Esperansa, the only shelter for domestic violence victims in the CNMI, reported serving up to 78 victims in a day, based on the latest Domestic Violence Counts survey by the National Network to End Domestic Violence.

Guma Esperansa manager Lauri B. Ogunoro said the shelter was able to provide 5,090 bed nights and over 15,000 meals last year. The Domestic Violence Intervention Center, meanwhile, helped 66 victims obtain temporary restraining orders from violent and abusive partners.

“There are many more women, men, and children living with domestic violence than we can show with these numbers. Domestic violence affects everyone in our community,” added Nimwes.

The Domestic Violence Awareness Month will be leading village walks against violence every Wednesday, a Day of Unity on Oct. 8, village conversations, and exhibits at the Garapan Street Market.

For more information about the activities, call 234-3878 or email angelyn@endviolencenmi.org. If you know anyone experiencing domestic violence and needs help, call the Karidat Victim Hotline at 234-5100.



#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

##### Position: Senior Vice President/General Manager (1)

Qualification: must have 10 years experience managing full service 36 hole golf course, experience in developing and marketing and coordinating marketing strategies, knowledge of business management practices of golf course operation and hotel operation, assignment and projects for the golf course, maintain and grow membership and customer by promptly handling member and guest concerns and issues, ensure open communication and high visibility to members and guest by conducting daily walk through of the club, generate revenue by acting as sales manager for the entire golf club and resort, expand sales by initiating and monitoring effectiveness of monthly promotions, demand managements and demand creation strategies.

##### Position: Cook Korean Cuisine (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years in the preparation of Korean food, will be involved in Korean menu development, inventory, ordering/purchasing, food cost control, training, personnel management such as coaching, complies to all applicable Sanitation Codes, ensure efficient, safe and sanitary food production, preparation, presentation and knowledgeable of Korean food trends with focus on quality, experience in large catering or banquet functions, excellent communication skills in Korean and basic English to understand and follow recipe, able to communicate on all levels, including management, departmental and customer.

##### Position: Chef de Partie (1)

Qualifications: 7 Years of cooking experience and training, responsible for the creation of high quality dishes, able to work independently, cooks consistently and enthusiastically on a high level, helps create and cook to perfection seasonal and including a five course modern gourmet menu, small selection of signature a la carte dishes, cooks and prepares for each meal service, controls incoming goods and stores food, vegetables, fruits, staple in a perfect conditions, guest orientated and able to converse with the clients, actively attends wine and general trainings, team building events and supplier visits to learn about local product, has fun cooking, is a sociable person, likes to work as a teamwork, and respects and actively works with colleagues.

##### Position: Cook (7)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of experience and training, prepares or directs preparation of foods according to prescribed menus and recipes, takes inventory of supplies on hand and orders food supplies, ingredients and other consumables on a schedules basis as determined by menu and estimated number of customers, cleans and sanitizes all food preparation equipment and ensures that it is kept in safe and operable condition, knowledge of methods, materials, and practices of volume food preparation, sanitary methods used in food preparation.

##### Position: Assistant Manager, Food & Beverage Department (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of working experience and training, Must have supervisory experienced and training preferably in hotel and resort facilities, have experienced for all food and beverage services including banquet catering, bar/grill, dining restaurant, and outside beverage carts, must have cost control of all food and beverage outlets by helping in overseeing the purchasing of food, maintains effective inventory and shortage controls, work with the Executive Chef to develop an annual food and beverage plan and budget, ensure successful operation of special events, banquets, rentals, coordinates the delivery for all food and beverage service to the customer at the highest guest standard, supervise staff and operational during shift, ensure all of the services provided are immediate need of the customer, maintain and develop a dedicated team providing the highest quality of service and addresses all staffing issues in a fair and timely manner.

##### Position: Kitchen Helper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience, must be familiar with the dynamics of a professional kitchen is a plus, willingness to learn, time and space management skills, physical stamina, a friendly temperament, a desire to help out where needed and the ability to foster the creation and maintenance of a cohesive team, assist cooks, keep kitchen clean, perform a variety of food preparation task, assist with food and beverage service, receive and store supplies, sweeps and mops floors, segregates and removes trash and garbage and places, hoses out garbage container, washes pots, pans, trays by hand, scrapes food from dirty dishes and washes them by hand or place them in racks.

##### Position: Assistant Manager, Front Office (1)

Qualifications: Must have 2 years of experienced and training in the field of hotel and golf resort operation, must be organized, neat and professional appearance, pleasant, tactful and patient, able to communicate well with a wide variety of people, committed to providing good service, enjoyed dealing with people, ability to direct and control the activities of the Front Office, Reservations, deal with customer complaints, knowledge of a second language is a plus (write, read, and speak) computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications, and superior written and oral communications skills, ability to respond properly and take a supervisory role in any hotel emergency or safety situation.

##### Position: Korea Sales & Marketing (1)

Qualification: 3 years of experienced and training, must have worked in a hotel or tourism industry, communicate directly with guests, both in person and by telephone, provides information on facilities to Korean speaking guest at the golf & resort, provide information and services in Korean, must be able to offer the Korean guest in any number of special circumstances, good communication skills in Korean language is vitally important, provides all the information that the guest needs to enjoy their stay, good problem solving skills, good organizational skills, must be trained and experienced in tourism or hospitality managements, excellent customer service skills.

##### Position: Supervisor, Japan Sales & Marketing (2)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experienced and training in marketing strategy for the Japanese market, must be fluent in the Japanese language as well as to read and write, experienced contacting and selling to Corporate level executives, experienced in Sales and Marketing most especially in the Japan markets, built and managed a network of marketing and selling Hotel and Golf product and services, possess innovative business promotional and advertising activities, strong negotiating skills, knowledgeable of the Japanese customers needs, have strong demonstrations skills, must work with management team to create sales and marketing plans that includes to identify and target Japan Markets, identify potential Japanese clients.

##### Position: Supervisor Pro Shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of supervisory experienced and training, able to lead, direct and motivate the sales team in order to achieve sales objectives, identifies appropriate business targets, provides a professional and excellent level of customer service with existing and new customers, supervises scheduled shift, completes all assigned duties, supervises sale associates, ensure that all employees adhere to company policies and procedures, knowledge of principles, techniques, and objectives of marketing, manages a sales program, knowledge of hotel management and philosophy.

##### Position: Sales Representative, Pro shop (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced in the field of golf operation, must maintain outstanding customer service, generating sales, merchandising, must be fully competent in selling, knowledgeable of cashingier and receipt processing, knows how to operate a computerized point of sale cash receipts, inventory management system, ensure that each customer receives, ability to work varied hours/days, including nights, weekends and holidays as needed, must recognize security risks and thefts and know how to handle or prevent such situations.

##### Position: Front Desk Supervisor (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 3 years of hospitality work, must have total understanding of all hotel front office procedures, know standard of cash handling, knowledge of computerized cash register systems, reservation system, must have experience in dealing directly with the public and acquired general knowledge of basic customer service skills, experienced and trained in the field of Front Office Operation, assist the Front Office Staff in handling customers in an efficient, gracious and professional manner and maintains a friendly, cheerful and courteous demeanor at all times.

##### Position: Front Desk Clerk, China/Korea Market (1)

Qualifications: Assist the front desk clerks in handling Korean and Chinese guests in an efficient, gracious and professional manger, responsible for the management, organization of the Front Office and related functions pertaining to the Korean and Chinese guests, respond and display a high degree of professionalism and integrity as well to a wide variety of people, enjoys dealing with people, computer literate with knowledge of a variety of computer software applications and superior Korean/Chinese written, and oral communication skills.

##### Position: Executive Housekeeping (1)

Qualifications: 7 years experience and training is required, must have worked preferably at a hotel, responsible for the smooth, efficient, cost effective operation of the Housekeeping Department, inventory control, works closely with Front Desk Assistant Manager to resolve all room discrepancies, possesses good knowledge of all matters relating to the proper administration of the Housekeeping department, provides employee safety training to prevent accidents, maintains quality standards through inspection programs, follows and ensures compliance to all hotel control procedures by staff.

##### Position: Housekeeping (3)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training cleaning hotel rooms, ensure clean, orderly attractive rooms in hotels, and must have training cleaning golf facilities, prepare a list of prospective check-outs, investigates complaints regarding housekeeping service and equipment, takes corrective action, operates various mechanized cleaning equipment, responsible for disposal of trash, waste and other disposable materials, conducts inventories to ensure adequate supplies, observe precautions required to protect hotel guests’ property, and report theft or found articles to supervisors.

##### Position: Accountant (1)

Qualifications: 5 years work experience and knowledge of generally accepted accounting principles and procedures and budgetary principles, considerate knowledge of computers and their application in financial and accounting system, ability to prepare clear financial statement, establish tables of accounts and assign entries to proper accounts, use professional judgment, ability to plan, organize and meet rigid schedules and demanding timelines and seasonal workloads.

##### Position: Information Technology Technician (1)

Qualification: Must have 5 years of experienced and training and a college graduate in Computer science, responsible for installing, maintaining computer hardware, software, networks, have proficient knowledge in computer hardware and software systems and programs, computer networks, network administration and network installations, computer troubleshooting, team building skills, analytical and problem solving skills, decision making skills, effective verbal, presentation and listening communication skills, effective written communication skills, computer skills including the ability to operate graphics and website development programs at a highly proficient level, good time manage.

##### Position: Information Technology Assistant (1)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years of experience and training and must be a college graduate of computer applications and operating systems, PC hardware and trouble shooting, repair procedures, principles and practices of computer and telephone support services, computer hardware and software applications, familiar with information technology policies and procedures, computer operations processing and procedures, communicate clearly and easily with user and vendors of varying levels of technical expertise.

##### Position: Project Engineer/Facility Maintenance Manager (1)

Qualifications: 10 years of experienced and training, college graduate, is responsible to ensure that all LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort facilities are maintained in the highest of standards in their operation, assists in implementation and coordination of maintenance, repair, renovations of Company owned and leased facilities, monitors contractors compliance to standards for various Company buildings, conducts initial review and evaluates bids for compliance with specifications, report building maintenance needs, respond appropriately to emergencies or urgent issues as they arise, manage and supervise and coordinates the work of the staff and the work of contractors, communicate clearly and concisely, maintain adequate inventory, preventive maintenance and repairs of equipment.

##### Position: Supervisor, Electrician (1)

Qualifications: Have 7 years of training and experienced, and a college graduate, must have electrical trade qualifications, complies and adheres to the Occupational Safety and Health and Standards and practices, excellent communication and team building skills, must have computer systems skills, perform electrical work as required within their capabilities, maintaining a high standard of workmanship and abide by local statutes, performs skilled electrical installations, undertake modifications to plan & equipment repair electronic components of electrical equipment as required for continued operation, attend to production machinery breakdowns as required.

##### Position: Mechanic Engineer (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of training and experienced, must have graduate degree, is responsible for all mechanical installations maintenance programs, stress analysis, piping, process plants layout and mechanical building services, responsible in power plant engines and generations, evaluates equipment performance and operating conditions, proficient in the planning and control of work in a multi project, deadline driven environment, deep and thorough understanding of applicable regulatory requirements and industry practices, assumes accountability for the quality of mechanical engineering work.

##### Position: HVAC Technician (1)

Qualifications: 7 years of experience and training, must have specialized knowledge to analyze and solve complex problems, continuous concentrated mental and visual effort to plan and perform complex work, strong physical exertion, responsibility for cost control, sustained high degree of attention required to prevent damage or waste, repair replace needs necessary to maintain equipment and systems, install heating, air conditioning, refrigeration systems and related equipment for the propose of providing comfort inside facilities, maintains tools.

##### Position: Building Maintenance (2)

Qualifications: Must have 3 years of working experience and training, must have standard maintenance skills and the ability to apply that knowledge safely in a structured environment, skill in operating maintenance and carpentry tools and equipments, activities and decisions, requires independent actions, judgment in solving common problems, must have tolerance for exposure to unpleasant elements, be able to positively interact with fellow workers, maintains and repairs a variety of building facilities and provides service for common mechanical, electrical, and building system devices.

##### Position: Assistant Manager, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years of experience and training in golf industry, Must be able to communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, inspect golf equipment, structures, or materials, work with the public, assist others, monitor events, coordinates the work and activities of others, develop and build teamwork, knowledge of a second language is a plus, knowledge of the golf sport and rules is a must, generally work a flex schedule, often deal with unpleasant, angry or discourteous customers, work in a group or as part of a team, provide directions to customers, make sure that the customers follow golf etiquette and rules.

##### Position: Supervisor, Recreation Facility Attendant (1)

Qualifications: Must have 5 years experienced and training and working in a golf industry, must keep things running smoothly, provide information about and the services the Company provides, keep equipment in working order, explain how to use equipment safely, provide information about rules, record details of attendance, reservations, make sure that people follow rules, communicate and supervise facility attendant employees, must be pleasant, neat in appearance, must be punctual and reliable, ability to work well with the public is very important, knowledge of the golf sport, responsible for work outcomes and results of other attendants.

##### Position: Supervisor, Greens keeper (1)

Qualifications: Must have 7 years of training and experienced, must have worked preferably at a hotel and golf industry, establishes and maintain and repair programs for the golf course and the hotel, evaluates and determines the need for and scope of emergency repairs and supervises staff and contractors in performing work, establishes procedures governing employee and customer’s safety, perform grounds maintenance, perform preventive maintenance to the equipment, applies insecticides, herbicides and fertilizers maintains and operate irrigation system, experienced and knowledgeable in tractor operation and mowing.

##### Position: Greens keeper (14)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, knowledge of methods and materials used in grounds and landscaped area knowledge of and ability to use hand and power tools and equipment, ability to operate trucks, light motorized equipment, physical strength, stamina and agility, assists in the construction of new greens, tees, and fairways, lays sod, and seeds tees, greens and fairways.

##### Position: Nursery Workers (3)

Qualifications: Minimum of 2 years experience and training, must have working knowledge at a golf course, performs routine maintenance on equipment, move containerized shrubs, plants, greens, using wheelbarrows, carts, shovel or tractors, maintain grounds and landscaping, haul and spread topsoil, fertilizer, peat moss and other materials to condition soil, requires to be reliable, responsible, and dependable, pleasant to work with, displays good natured and cooperative attitude.

##### Position: Fabricator & Assembler (1)

Qualifications: Must have 10 years of training and experience, must be able to fabricates, assembles, installs, and repairs sheet metal products and equipment on the basis of knowledge of system operation, may work with aluminum, galvanized steel, stainless steel, or other sheet metal stock, frequent to constant standing, walking throughout shift on all types of surfaces, maintains a safe work environment must be able to plan, organize, must be able to read and understand technical information, manuals, material safety data sheets, work order.

##### Position: Heavy Equipment Machinist (1)

Qualifications: must have 5 years of training and experience, performs skilled tasks in the mechanical repair and maintenance of heavy trucks, earth moving, and related construction equipment including road graders, knowledge of hazards and safety precautions of the trade, operation and maintenance requirements of heavy duty construction equipment, work cooperatively with other employees, work safely without presenting a direct threat to self or others, performs incidental welding operations on equipment.

##### Position: Golf Cart Mechanic (2)

Qualification: high school diploma, 3 years technical training or experienced in mechanical, dismantle engines, using hand tools and examine parts for defects, test and inspect engines to determine malfunctions, to locate missing and broken parts, perform routine maintenance such as cleaning and oiling parts, honing cylinders and tuning ignition system, ability to demonstrate good judgment when dealing with guests or other personnel, able to lift/carry supplies or equipment with frequent reaching, stooping, bending, and kneeling, extensive walking and standing.

Drop off your resume and application at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort at the Front Office, Kagman Road. May submit resume online at: mada@laoaobay.com  
Deadline to submit Applications is on or before 5:00pm on October 8, 2012.  
Saipan LauLau Development, Inc., dba LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is an  
Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.



# Hasselback seeks clarity on Buckingham motion

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The lawyer for the Office of the Public Auditor has asked Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman to clarify whether or not the court will entertain former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham's motion for reconsideration.

OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback said it is his understanding that Wiseman's Sept. 11, 2012, order means that the court will not entertain any further motions by Buckingham until he returns to the CNMI to place himself under the court's jurisdiction.

Hasselback said that Wiseman's order particularly stated that: "Before the court will use

judicial resources in weighing any of defendant's claims or arguments, defendant must be present in the CNMI so that any order or judgment rendered by the court may be enforced."

The order would preclude consideration of Buckingham's motion for reconsideration filed on Sept. 18, 2012, and therefore prevent the need to respond to it at this time, said Hasselback, who is also serving as an assistant attorney general in this case.

In his motion for reconsideration, Buckingham, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas,

asked the court to dismiss the criminal case filed against him and to strike the order that declares him a fugitive from justice.

Buckingham also disclosed

to the court an alleged confidential letter dated Jan. 25, 2012 sent by Office of Public Auditor Michael Pai to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Nicholas said the letter concerns the OPA's investigation into the "factual circumstances" forming the basis for the three counts of the initial information filed against Buckingham by Hasselback.

Nicholas said the issuance

of the bench warrant for the arrest of Buckingham and the subsequent denial of his motion to quash the bench warrant were in errors as a matter of law.

On Sept. 11, 2012, Wiseman issued an order declaring Buckingham a fugitive from justice.

"[Buckingham] is a fugitive of justice, and his argument that his absence is not willful and he has not attempted to conceal his whereabouts does not shed his fugitive status," said Wiseman in the order.

Wiseman denied without prejudice Buckingham's motion to quash the \$50,000 bench warrant he issued when Buckingham failed to attend the hearing last Aug. 6.



Buckingham

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 26, 2000

### CJPA disburses funds for armor vests

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency has been granted by the U.S. Dept. of Justice some \$145,444 in total funds for the purchase of bulletproof vests to be distributed among law enforcement agencies in the CNMI. The award under the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Act of 1998 is tailored to protect the lives of law enforcement officers by helping states and units of local and tribal governments equip authorities with armor vests. The grant represents the total funding sought by CJPA for Fiscal Years 1999 and 2000 from the federal government. "We have asked for a waiver on the 50 percent local matching funds. So we have received 100 percent subsidy," said CJPA Executive Director Harry Blanco.

### Airport project stirs optimism on Tinian economy

Tinian lawmakers have expressed a sigh of relief with the groundbreaking of the much-anticipated new airport runway project, describing it a key to economic growth in the island municipality. They also underscored its significance in enticing more tourists and investors into Tinian, while ensuring success of their fledgling casino industry. The four members of the local legislative delegation attended the groundbreaking ceremony held last Friday at the Tinian airport which also drew other CNMI officials and business leaders.

Sept. 26, 2001

### NMI beefs up anti-terrorism efforts

The United States' war against terrorism has resulted in an intensified campaign in the Commonwealth, as an anti-terrorism committee finalizes a comprehensive plan headed for the approval of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. At the same time, the federal government has required the committee to coordinate with them through the US Department of Justice, while assuring the CNMI of more federal grants in its anti-terrorism drive. The Commonwealth Anti-Terrorism/Hazardous Materials Planning Committee is meeting this week to finalize an anti-terrorism response plan to augment the existing CNMI Emergency Operations Plan, said Emergency Management Office Deputy Director Mark S. Pangelinan.

### Reyes 'saw' CUC's surcharge program coming

"I told you so." So says an exasperated Senate floor leader Pedro P. Reyes, in reaction to recent reports that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. may soon implement a surcharge program that would pass on to customers any increase in the cost of fuel. Reyes, chairman of the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, said this is exactly what he had anticipated when he tried to prevent the court from ruling on the case between the CUC and the Commonwealth Development Authority. "I have been talking about this on the top of my lungs, that if we don't do anything, this is going to happen," he said.

Sept. 26, 2002

### Muslim-American group donates books to library

The Muslim-American Society yesterday donated several books and a two-year free subscription of a Muslim Journal to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. Khalid Abdullah Islam, a representative of the group, presented books on understanding Islam, its culture and other vital information that would help not only the Muslim community on Saipan but also those who want to know more about the religion. Islam said that, while the books will give a comprehensive explanation about the subject, the Muslim Journal—a weekly newspaper publication circulated worldwide—will be a good source of information about other happenings, events, and important details concerning the Muslim community around the world.

### Govt offices undergoing energy audit

An audit on the energy consumption of the different government agencies and offices is now ongoing as part of efforts to tame the runaway utility bill of the entire CNMI government. It is expected to be finished by December. During Tuesday's proclamation signing for the Energy Awareness Month, acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente disclosed that the Energy Office of the Department of Public Works is now conducting an energy audit to find better and more efficient ways for the government to save on energy costs. Although there are no dollar figures yet on the amount of energy that the entire CNMI government is wasting, DPW Secretary John Reyes projected that the Commonwealth government can actually save 30 percent on its utility payments if it implements conservation costs.

## JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST CHILDHOOD OBESITY & CANCER!



9/26/12 (Wednesday)	5:00pm	Ada Gym	Flashmob rehearsal. Open to the public for anyone who wants to participate in the Let's Move flashmob on September 29th.
9/26/12 (Wednesday)	6:00pm	Ada Gym	Volunteer Orientation for all volunteers assisting in the Let's Move Marianas Expo. Mandatory attendance.
9/26/12 (Wednesday)	6:30pm to 7:30pm	MCV Channel 14	Lets Move Marianas 2012 Campaign Part 2 show on JOHN GONZALES LIVE Replays on Thursday, 9/27, 7:00pm-8:00pm and Friday, 9/28, 7:30pm-8:30pm. STAY TUNED
9/27/12 (Thursday)	6:00pm	Ada Gym	Volunteer Orientation for all volunteers assisting in the Let's Move Marianas Expo. Mandatory attendance.
9/28/12 (Friday)	5:00pm	Ada Gym	Flashmob rehearsal. Open to the public for anyone who wants to participate in the Let's Move flashmob on September 29th.

For more information: **670-236-8638**  
**letsmovemarianas@gmail.com**





# Tickets on sale for Chamber election debates

In an effort to educate the islands' voting populace before this year's mid-term elections on Nov. 6, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its Saipan Senatorial Debate on Oct. 10, and its U.S. Congressional Debate on Oct. 17, both at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Fifty debate tickets have been provided to each candidate for their supporters. The remaining tickets for the

300-person capacity debate hall are on sale as follows: Tickets are available to SCC members beginning Monday, Sept. 24, for \$10 each. Each SCC member can purchase two tickets initially. On Monday, Oct. 1, all remaining \$10 tickets will be made available to the general public, additional SCC member purchases, and the candidates as well.

Both debates will begin at 7pm, after the entrance doors

are closed at 6:30pm. No one will be permitted to enter the debate proceedings until intermission after the debates have started.

Any proceeds raised from the election debates, after costs are recovered for the evenings' election forums, go toward the SCC Scholarship Award Fund for the Chamber's annual \$10,000 contribution to five Saipan college-bound students. (SCC)

## Federal bankruptcy trustees visit Saipan

District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and the CNMI Bar Association are hosting a visit by Tiffany Carroll, Region 15 acting U.S. Bankruptcy Trustee, and Curtis Ching, Assistant Trustee for the Hawaii District (which includes the CNMI).

Carroll and Ching will address the CNMI Bar Association meeting today, Sept. 26, with an overview of Chapter 7

and Chapter 13 consumer bankruptcy law.

The Department of Justice, U.S. Trustee Program protects the integrity of the bankruptcy system by overseeing case administration and litigating to enforce the bankruptcy laws.

Carroll has been a federal trial attorney, assistant trustee, and acting U.S. Trustee in the Region 15 San Diego office since 1991. She graduated from

Pitzer College and Seattle University School of Law.

Ching has been a federal trial attorney and Assistant U.S. Trustee for 22 years. Most recently, he served as Trustee in the NMI Retirement Fund cases. Ching is a graduate of Stanford University and Boston College Law School. (USAO)

## Chinese national indicted for preventing removal

A federal grand jury has indicted a Chinese national on charges of preventing or hampering the removal of an alien, according to Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, yesterday.

Dongjun Li, 39, of the People's Republic of China, was indicted in the U.S. District Court for the NMI for alleged violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1253(a)(1)(C).

If found guilty, the defendant faces a statutory maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy. (USAO)

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to my wife, Marla Dela Cruz Rosario, my Lala! May God bless you with many more years to come. Greetings come from Rodney and family.



Happy, happy birthday to my fave Auntie Daisy Villagomez-Bier, an awesomely great, fabulous, fantastic, fierce, caring, compassionate, courageous, relentless, stubborn woman, who turns another year younger! Today is your day, and may you be spoiled and pampered like the queen that you are and may you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! Miss and love you bunches, your kiridu, Charisma.



Happy birthday to a special mother and grandmother, Alicia C. Agulto! Thank you for all that you've done for us. You truly are the best and we love you very much! With love, your kids and grandkids.



Happy 60th birthday to the great man in our lives, best father, and grandfather, Nelson H. Gopez! Stay special as you are. We love you always and cheers to many more years to come. Lots of blessings and love on your special day! Greetings come from your family.



### GOOD JOB!

Maeda Pacific president Tom Nielsen, center, sponsors a dinner party for staff engineers and workers in order to thank and congratulate them for finishing the installation of LED street lights in different villages on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota ahead of time. Also in the picture is Kimco Enterprise president Jae Yeol Lim, fourth from left. The street lighting was an ARRA-funded project.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### John Gonzales LIVE! schedule

Today's edition of *John Gonzales LIVE!* will feature part 2 of the topic "Let's Move Marianas! September 2012 Campaign Against Childhood Obesity & Childhood Cancer."

Guests will include Amber Rosario Mendiola, Let's Move Marianas! 2012 Campaign Planning chairwoman; Trina Sablan, Non-Communicable Disease Bureau media coordinator, Public Health Division, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.; childhood cancer survivors; Dr. Daniel Lamar, NCD Bureau medical adviser; and Roxanne Diaz, Division of Public Health director.

The program will air live today, from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. It will be re-

played tomorrow, Thursday, from 7pm to 8pm, and on Friday, from 7:30pm to 8:30pm, also on MCV Ch. 14. (PR)

#### GOP fundraiser cancelled

The GOP Precinct 5 fundraiser that was scheduled for the Pacific Islands Club on Sept. 23 was cancelled until further notice. All ticket holders will be contacted and informed of the new date, according to Jess Muna, GOP Precinct 5 Committee chairman. (PR)

#### Tsunami awareness workshop this week

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with National Disaster Preparedness Training Center, International Tsunami Information Center, Hawaii

State Civil Defense, and National Weather Services in Guam, will be conducting a CNMI Tsunami Awareness Workshop and Training Course AWR-217 on Saipan on Sept. 27 and 28, 2012, at Kanoa Resort, Saipan. The session will be primarily for government officials and non-government agencies that are a normal part of the Response Action Team, and for hotels, business sector, other non-government agencies, and the media.

To register or to obtain more information, contact Jeridena C. Crisotomo or Juan T. Camacho via email [jccrisotomo@cnmiemo.gov.mp](mailto:jccrisotomo@cnmiemo.gov.mp) or [jtcamacho@cnmiemo.gov.mp](mailto:jtcamacho@cnmiemo.gov.mp). (PR)

#### Korean Singing Contest on Nov. 23

The Korean Cultural Center

will host a Korean Singing Contest at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Nov. 23. There will also be photo sessions in King and Queen costumes and exhibition for Love Korea movement from Nov. 19 to 24. Details will be announced later. Those who want to participate are asked to send their name and phone number to [korean-cultureweek@gmail.com](mailto:korean-cultureweek@gmail.com). If you want to learn how to sing Korean songs, join special classes at Korean Community School, 4pm-6pm on Sept. 21 and 28 (Fridays) and 3pm-4pm on Sept. 22 and 29 (Saturdays). You can visit Korean Norae-bangs (karaoke room) for practice, especially with Korean friends. For more information, call 285-2221. (PR)

#### Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

#### HR OFFICER (1)

Requires: Associate Degree in Human Resource or Business Management with at least 4 years of HR experience in the Recruitment, Employee Relations and Compensation and Benefits functions. Must be knowledgeable of local and federal employment laws and proficient in MS Office applications especially Excel and Power Point. Ability to speak or understand Chinese Mandarin is an advantage.

Century Travel Agency dba Century Tours is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

REPORTER: Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course; At least 3 years work related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office at the 2nd Floor JP Center Building, Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, October 1, 2012.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

#### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: Graduate of a 4-year degree course with an Accounting or Financial Management major and at least 5 years of progressive financial and business management experience. Minimum of 3 years general management experience preferably in a financing or banking institution. Excellent communication and strong interpersonal skills. Must be proficient in the use of SAP R3 Financial and Controlling (FICO) software and Microsoft software. Should possess a solid track record of accomplishing business objectives.

CORPORATE PARALEGAL OFFICER: Bachelor's degree in paralegal studies or in any related field. Minimum of 3 years experience providing sound legal research, reliable litigation support and preparation of legal documents, pleadings and contracts. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills. Familiarity with Lexis - Nexis and Pacer - ECF is required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. office at the 2nd Floor JP Center Building, Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, October 1, 2012.

L&T Group of Companies, Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## Redistribution isn't a bad word

All the talk about this presidential election being one of the most important in American history isn't just hype. The contrasts between Mitt Romney and President Obama are so sharp, the outcome of their battle could forever change what this country represents.

Romney has been trying hard to portray Obama's policies as being radical and far from the ideals represented in this nation's history, but it is his recent comments about redistributing wealth that have many people wondering if the America he envisions is really what they want.

The Republican nominee upset even members of his own party with last week's release of a surreptitiously made video of him making remarks that seemed to disparage the poor during a \$50,000-a-plate fund-raiser in May hosted by Philadelphia 76ers' co-owner Marc J. Leder at his mansion in Boca Raton, Fla.

Noting that 47 percent of Americans don't pay federal income taxes, Romney called them "victims" who have become dependents of the government. "My job is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives."

The backlash was immediate and strong. Romney apparently never considered that nearly a third of the people who don't pay income taxes do pay payroll and other taxes. In other words, they work; they're not sitting around waiting for government bailouts. Most of the rest who don't pay federal income taxes are either elderly or poor, or both—and some of them are Republicans.

Attempting to deflect a storm of criticism, Romney said he believes in an America "where government steps in to help those that are in need." But he then seemed to contradict that position by dragging up an audiotape from 14 years ago at a Chicago forum where then-State Sen. Barack Obama said he believed in income redistribution, "at least at a certain level to make sure that everybody's got a shot."

"I disagree," Romney told Fox News on Tuesday. But if that's so, how does he expect government to "step in" to help the needy? Does he want government to limit itself to offering friendly advice?

Without a redistribution of income through taxation, which pays for Medicaid, Pell Grants, small-business loans, veterans benefits, food stamps, etc., what kind of nation would this be? Much of that type of assistance is meant to be temporary, provided mostly to get a family through a rough patch or give a young person a chance to excel.

That Romney uses redistribution as if it were an obscene word again suggests his campaign is in the thrall of antitax acolytes of the late Ayn Rand, who believed government punishes the rich by confiscating their wealth to help people who otherwise would be working harder. That philosophy doesn't sit well with Americans who believe there are times when government is the right tool to help people help themselves.

Who wins this presidential election will determine which philosophy prevails, and what type of nation this should be.

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## Yom Kippur

Like Christmas in Christian churches where attendance at religious services geometrically increases, many secular Jew return to the synagogue annually to the holiest of holy days in Jewish dramaturgy, the day of atonement known as Yom Kippur. Observed as a day of soul-searching and repentance on the 10th day of the lunar "moonh" of Tishrei, today is a day of divine absolution and forgiveness.

Its importance to the heirs of Abraham is gauged in the number of prayers during the day's observance that began Tuesday sunset and ends in tonight's nightfall. A regular day has three prayers, and the Yom Tov, or Shabbat, has four, but Yom Kippur has five. A Yiddish wag once commented that the sins of the fathers are so much that it takes five prayers to wash away their wickedness!

The Jewish disciplined rage came to fore in the Yom Kippur War of 1973 when the combined Syrian, Jordanian, and Egyptian forces launched an attack to reclaim territories gained by Israel in the 1967 war that earned them the West Bank and Gaza. Whatever justification the Arab World had in launching the Yom Kippur War, it does not negate the fact that the massive deception on the eve of Israel's holiest of holy days, while the Arab world was observing Ramadan, says much about the ascendancy of secular military motives over the reality of deeply held religious sentiments.

The story of Isaac and Ishmael, root patriarchs of Jerusalem and Mecca, is instructive. The brothers, separated by a wily father, returned to bury Abraham and were reconciled in an act of forgiveness. So it did not come as a surprise that the Ashura in Mecca (*asor*, ten in Hebrew) became also a Mohammed-prescribed day of atonement, now observed on the 10th day of the moonh of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic Year.

The Day of Atonement found a loud echo in Islam's Shiite Shab-I-Barat, observed also in India and Bangladesh, on the day one of the early Islamic leaders was assassinated. The Sunnis also observe a day of atonement.

Christians consider atonement as the core mission of Jesus of Nazareth, and it imbues the observance of Holy Week, culminating in the vernal equinox when Easter is celebrated.

Martyrology permeates the Abrahmic traditions. Some Jewish synagogues this day recall Yitzhak Rabin, prime minister of Israel, who was murdered by another Jew in 1995, because "he was moving forward from a past reliance on military force to defend Israel, into an effort to make peace with the Palestinian people."

Forgiveness in the Jewish tradition is a venerated and practical observance. In its Jubilee, it used to be that all existing debts revert to zero. In China, the observance of New Year takes that practice seriously, not so much in forgiving the debt as ensuring that all debts are settled before sundown.

In the continuing American civil war, which is not very civil in this election year, it is heartening to see how the vituperative language finds levity in media's publicizing both camps' presidential

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvergarajr2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvergarajr2031@aol.com)) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



gaffes in their private discourses to donors.

Forgiveness, a daily injunction in Christian practice, is ignored as an operating principle in legislative affairs of democracies. The blame-game is a more therapeutic exercise to salve the pain a society feels going through a crisis.

The impeachment proceedings surrounding Governor Fital has some folks salivating over the prospects of holy revenge! Even in the last London Olympic games, revenge was heralded as a motive in the triumph of some teams and/or individuals in their game to erase a previous "humiliation" in a previous encounter.

The chief rabbi at Yom Kippur enters the Holy of Holies and comes out to the congregation that one time of the year when he (as there are no acknowledged female popes, there are no female chief rabbis) is allowed to pronounce the holiest of words, *YHWH*, (mistransliterated in German as "Jehovah"), meaning the breath of life. *YHWH* is often translated in some circles as simply The Way Life Is, an acknowledgement of the experience of Reality as sheer Awe, Mystery, and Wonder.

Atonement is also spelled as at-one-ment to point to a devotee's dependence and union with the Way Life Is. The active wind of the desert, the *ruah*, is often used to translate one of the triune poles of the Christian godhead as Holy Spirit. There is a ferocity assumed in at-one-ment!

In a world gone scientific, urban, and secular, from a previous universe that was metaphysical, rural, and religious, Yom Kippur has become like our local museum. We know it is there, and we even support its existence, but we do not derive our daily living on its existence. We visit it only on occasion, particularly when visiting guests are on island, but we give it no serious mind as a part of our regular routine.

But the reality of forgiveness remains. The word itself can be a play of being "given for." Whatever the past was, it is done and gone, rendered into the annals of history. We can lament its occurrence, but trying to undo it is a futile exercise. We can take its memory and feed it into our decision to shape a new future.

(We remember today Barry Hirshbein who recently passed away from complications in Manila. We did not always agree on many things, but we valued his service to the Commonwealth, and celebrate the completion of his being.)

L'achaim!



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Dilemma: Voting on Article 12

Who should vote on an initiative to amend Article 12 to lower the blood quantum requirement below 25 percent? It's ethnicity versus citizenship! Ethnicity limits voting on Article 12 to people of Northern Marianas descent. The latter grants all U.S. citizens their right to vote on this and other issues as well.

It's appalling, though, the illusion that legislators could legislate genealogy or lineage via a suspect initiative. Home is the source of my pride, establishing where I came from regardless of blood quantum, true? Does it matter that only a percent of 1 percent in my lineage ties me to these isles? Isn't this sufficient for purposes of lineage?

The traditional view that land belongs to the indigenous people since time immemorial grants the ethnicity argument some legitimacy. Therefore, voting on such property must be limited to the indigenous people. It looks logical and persuasive, too.

But it compromises the rights of U.S. citizens to own property and vote on issues. One is a "natural" right, the other "civil." In either case a denial would trump their voting right outright. Such denial obviates the question: How would the federal court rule on this issue? Legal experts have alluded to the *Rice v Cayetano* case where the court denied limiting voting to indigenous Hawaiians on sovereignty, opening it to all citizens of the U.S. living in the Aloha State.

In short, a denial of a citizen's right is discriminatory in either case (Hawaii and NMI) since it is race-based. Thus, it knocks out arguments for ethnicity in favor of citizenship. This is just a glimpse of what could happen when the issue comes to the federal court regardless of the legitimacy of indigenous argument. The court would rule in favor of ensuring "equal protection" for all U.S. citizens.

■ ■ ■ ■

### NMI a part of the US

Lest we forget, the CNMI agreed through the Covenant Agreement that when local laws come in conflict with federal or U.S. constitutional laws, the latter prevails under what's known as the supremacy of laws. What does this mean?

I interpret this to mean that Article 12 is "null and void" from the outset (void *ab initio*). It runs contrary to the Bill of Rights that grants citizens their natural right to property. Having said this, it

would seem logical that local government supports the rights of citizens to own property on these isles. It must refrain using the nonexistent "protection" it spouts to compromise a "natural" right.

The CNMI is Americana, like it or not, and in no way can the local Constitution reign supreme over the U.S. Constitution, known as the "law of the land." It means we must allow all citizens to vote on amendments to Article 12. It's the rights of all U.S. citizens!

■ ■ ■ ■

### 'It's my land!'

Through the years, we've seen the emergence of two types of landowners: 1.) Those who claim and honor their "natural" rights and couldn't care less what's under Article 12. 2.) The other group trumpets the need to maintain and limit landownership strictly to the indigenous people.

The former group understands that a "natural" right is "unalienable" or can't be infringed nor violated. Such right is absolute as to render Article 12 "null and void" from the outset. Can any provision of the local Constitution render the supremacy of the U.S. Constitution null and void? No sir! The "law of the land," in this case our national constitution, prevails! It's a simple lesson in government worth remembering.

Lately, proponents of Article 12 have used the term "protection," injecting subtle ethnocentricity to justify their position. Obviously, they fail to give a fair explanation of the full extent of their position. It trumps "equal protection" for other citizens and those legally situated on the islands.

Stunning, though, the belief that protection exists under Article 12. You see, the fundamental flaw of this provision is the hidden outright denial of ownership to private landowners. So how could this position justify "protection" when it removes ownership from landowners? Limiting ownership to the indigenous people is discriminatory. It openly denies equal protection to other U.S. citizens their right to own property.

Landownership came from upstairs and the preamble of the U.S. Constitution echoes your right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Landownership, a natural right, is a derivative of your basic rights as a citizen. No one can toy with it nor can it be compromised, including the hollow and shallow assertion found under Article 12. It's a feel-good provision so weak at the base it would be thrown

## Political handlers become editors

George Orwell, a font of wisdom on politics and power, once wrote that "journalism is printing what someone else does not want printed: everything else is public relations."

That remark came to mind the other day when I heard author Michael Lewis pulling back the curtain on a tawdry journalistic practice that's now standard procedure in Washington. Lewis wanted to hang out with President Obama, and write about it for *Vanity Fair*. The White House said yes, but only on the condition that he submit his quotes to the Obama team in advance of publication—in case the president's handlers deemed it necessary to censor something.

Lewis made the deal. As he explained on NPR, "The agreement I had with (them) was, 'Don't worry about me. I don't mind you vetting his quotes, and if you set me up with an interview with someone else in the White House and I want to quote that person, I'll show you those quotes, too.' And that ended up happening." Lewis says he was compelled to excise an "emotional" scene, but little else. The article is on newsstands now, and—this will shock you—Obama comes off as one of the most awesome dudes on Earth.

But I was more shocked to learn that it's *de rigueur* in D.C. these days for political journalists to become complicit in their sources' spin, to act as stenographers for the people they cover. Pardon my naivete, but in all my years on the campaign trail, I had always believed that it would be a flagrant breach of ethics to let my sources vet their own quotes prior to publication, lest they insist on cleaning up or doctoring or killing what they had already said on the record. I was trained to believe that sources should never be permitted to function as editors.

Yet now, apparently, this is how the game is played. I suspect that most news consumers didn't know about this. The Obama campaign routinely bars access to its top players, unless the players get quote approval. The Romney campaign does the same thing. And the journalists who hunger for access become conspirators in a process that further blurs the line between truth and fakery.

One can understand why the campaigns want to control the info flow. News moves with lightning speed in our digitized, Twitterized universe; any verbal gaffe or errant phrase or misquote (yes, that happens too) can drive the dialogue for days. A politician's fortunes can be changed in a flash by a viral story that people read in their palms while queuing up for coffee.

But what we lose, thanks to what media critic Howard Kurtz calls

"a devil's bargain," is the authenticity and spontaneity that real people bring to the human comedy.

I'm not suggesting that insiders are blatantly editing themselves; no Romney aide has ever said, "My candidate is a tin-eared fathead who should be counting his money in the Caymans," and later insisted, as the price for access, that it be changed to "He's a cross between Cicero and Pericles." No, the corruption is more subtle. We'll never know what these sources really said on the record before they were allowed to strip their remarks of anything provocative, colorful, or inadvertently insightful.

The only solution is to just say no, to arrest the slow-motion slide toward propaganda. As a matter of policy, the Associated Press refuses to grant quote approval. So does The Philadelphia Inquirer, the National Journal, and the McClatchy newspaper chain. If all media outlets banded together, the political insiders—who are anxious to get their messages out—would be compelled to loosen their censorship demands. But journalists are tougher to herd than cats in a rainstorm. Someone with a story angle will always be willing to trade independence for access.

So the next time you read comments by "a White House aide" or a "campaign strategist," feel free to mentally rewrite the sentence so that

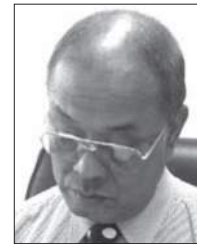
### Letter to the Editor

## Double whammy

With all due respect, not only is Public Law 17-82 defective (as has been pointed out at some length in the Sept. 25 issue of the other paper) but the budget bill is also defective. It is based on the assumption that most retirees will withdraw their money from the Retirement Fund, and that therefore the government will not have to make any further payments to the Fund. This, in turn, would release all that matching money that would have been required, prior to the passage of P.L. 17-82, to do things like restore work-day hours, maintain useless offices, and whatever else has been added to the budget.

But it now looks like P.L. 17-82, which provides for those refunds, will be challenged in court, and that would mean that the payouts to active members of the Fund would be put on hold, which, in turn, would mean that the government would, instead, still be required to match

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



*John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

out as discriminatory by the U.S. Supreme Court. Reason? It's race-based in all its form and substance!

Did we ever surrender our natural right on land to government? Never! It stands to reason that government must be at the forefront protecting our right to ownership of our land. It can't preach otherwise. To do so is to seek for the subsequent establishment of a dictatorship. This is far removed from the principle of government's authority limited to the "consent of the governed."

Obviously, there's a lot of room to either learn the essence of "natural" rights versus "civil" rights and the humility to employ respect for the law of the land, the U.S. Constitution, the supreme law of these isles. It's the way to foster lasting working relationships with one and all. That has been and still is a part of our Christian values we've learned from Spain since 400-plus years ago.

■ ■ ■ ■

### Destruction of habitat

I visited Micro Beach for some fresh air blowing in from the northeast. It was once a venue inundated by a beehive of activities as traditional fishermen pull in their nets right after dawn or before sunset.

I looked across where Hyatt Regency stands today. Tall cement buildings represent "progress" in modernity. I recalled being one of the litigants against granting what was Continental Airlines' use of such land. But we lost our cause for inability to show irreparable harm.

The taking of that land demonstrates what huge corporations could do to trump even food habitat of the indigenous people. Most of Micro Beach is in federal hands today. Folks or tourists occupy the balance of the open beach, getting their precious suntan before returning home. Its traditional use is history!

By **DICK POLMAN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer



*Dick Polman is a columnist for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to him at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at [dpolman@phillynews.com](mailto:dpolman@phillynews.com); blog: <http://www.dickpolman.blogspot.com>.*

it reads: "An aide said today, in comments that he was allowed to edit and revise in advance of publication, after demanding that the reporter e-mail him the original quotes ..."

But there's one ray of hope. No matter how often the campaign spinners nudge journalists into Orwellian territory, they can't police the words that emanate from the candidates' mouths. When Mitt Romney is outed on camera voicing dismissive contempt for virtually half the American electorate, it's too late for quote approval. In rare but inevitable moments of spontaneity, the candidates still shape their own fortunes.






**Ruth Tighe**  
Tanapag, Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Yap	Showers	▲ 89 ▼ 79
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 80

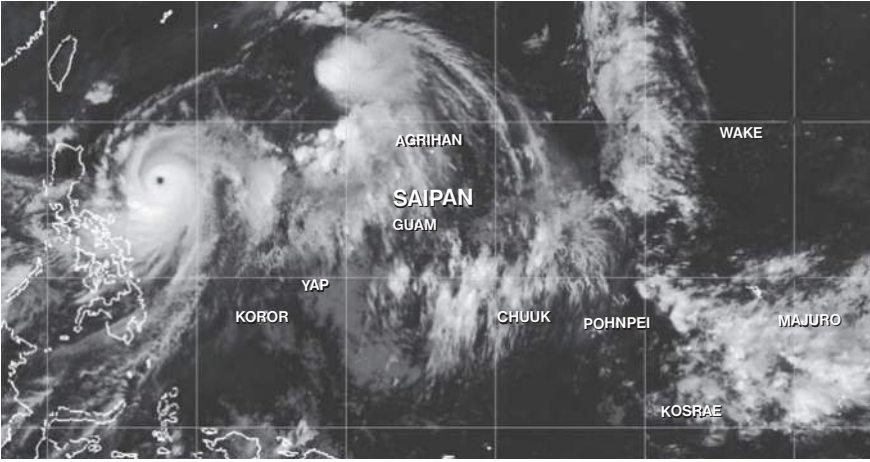
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 57
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 58
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 74
London	Rain	▲ 60 ▼ 49
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 56
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
New York	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 60
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 85 ▼ 66
Paris	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 52
Pusan	Windy	▲ 75 ▼ 64
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 68
Salem	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 55
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 59
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 68
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 61

### Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:43 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:47 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
6:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Ewinar (19W) is centered southwest of Iwo To island at 22N139E moving northward at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are seen west of the Mariana Islands within 200 miles of a line from 24N141E to 19N143E to 15N137E. For more information on Tropical Storm Ewinar, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN32 PGTW and public advisories issued by National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ32 PGUM. Super typhoon Jelawat (18W) is centered east of the Philippines at 16N128E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present northwest of Yap and Koror west of a line from 19N135E to 12N135E. A surface trough west of Chuuk extends northward from 1N146E to 13N148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found near Chuuk and southeast of Guam within 250 miles of a line from 8N146E to 14N155E. An upper-level trough extends southward from an upper-level low centered north of Minami Tori Shima at 25N153E to 16N155E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found west of Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 15N160E to 25N159E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from Kosrae to the date line between the equator and 8N from 162E to 180. This area also includes Majuro but is just south of Kwajalein.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:07 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:19 PM	2:25 AM
Thursday	4:01 PM	3:19 AM
Friday	4:42 PM	4:11 AM
Saturday	5:22 PM	5:02 AM
Sunday	6:02 PM	5:53 AM

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

### PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UJ2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## IN 12TH PACIFIC REGION INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

### PSE, APAFS to educate, raise awareness about socially responsible investments

**MANILA, Philippines**—For the 6th consecutive year, Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS), partners with the country's sole stock exchange, PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange), for the much awaited Regional Investment Conference on Nov. 15 and 16, 2012, at the New World Makati City Hotel, in Manila, Philippines.

Head of the PSE Capital Markets Development Division, Leo G. Quinitio, shares, "PSE supports APAFS in its primary mission of providing a forum to further strengthen the bonds of better education on finances and socially responsible investments".

PSE believes in the importance of greater financial awareness, encouraging individuals to gain more knowledge about stock investing including continuing education courses for market participants and serious investors through its Market Education Department.

The Pacific Region Investment Conference is an annual event that provides members with meaningful educational forums that cover the most current and fundamental understanding of their roles as fiduciaries, focusing on regional specific issues and needs.

"This year's conference theme is over-arching on socially responsible investment which



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
APAFS executive director Daniel A. Roland, AIF, CIMA, left, together with the head of PSE Market Education Department, Leo G. Quinitio.

APAFS hopes will be beneficial for everyone attending the conference, whether for the purpose of education, awareness or simply professional competitiveness," says APAFS Executive Director Daniel A. Roland.

Both organizations recognized the pivotal role of education; Guam based APAFS is a 501c3 non-profit educational association whose mission is to raise the level of standards of practice among fiduciaries in the Asia Pacific region.

In conjunction with the Pacific Region Investment Conference, the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF) training program will be offered to attendee who wants to earn the AIF

Designation, which is the first and most globally recognized designation that demonstrates knowledge and competency in the area of fiduciary.

The Accredited Investment Fiduciary (AIF)™ Training Program is facilitated by fi360™ on November 13 and 14, 2012 at the New World Makati City Hotel, Manila, Philippines. AIF designation represents a thorough knowledge of fiduciary standards and the application through the execution of best practices for investment policy and procedures. Successful completion of the program prepares interested participants to take the AIF® examination and enable them to earn the AIF® designation.

### Local governments try to cut costs via efficiency

**MINEOLA, N.Y.** (AP)—In some places, it's as simple as pulling the plug on thousands of unused telephone lines or installing software that automatically shuts off idle school computers to save on electric bills. Other places are doing such things as merging town fire departments, combining 911 centers or outsourcing collection of parking fines.

Around the country, governments big and small are embracing cooperation, consolidation and efficiency to wring a few more dollars out of the budget

as the effects of the Great Recession linger.

"What we're seeing is that many places are really taking a look at doing more with less," said Steve Hamill, a former administrator in Alameda County, Calif., and founder of the U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance, which helps municipalities learn of money-saving opportunities.

During the worst of the downturn, many local governments resorted to layoffs and other blunt means of cutting spending. Now, with the econo-

my still shaky, they are looking in less obvious places for ways to save money.

Earlier this year, Long Island's two counties and several townships announced anticipated savings of more than \$1 million annually by joining forces to buy such things as medical supplies for ambulances and chemicals for wastewater treatment and swimming pools.

"Joint purchasing is an example of where we can do more with less by finding efficiency," Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said.

the scene. The Taiwanese-owned company declined to say whether the factory is involved in iPhone production. It said the facility, which employs 79,000 people, will suspend work Monday and reopen Tuesday.

#### Toys R Us to hire 45,000 temp holiday staffers

Toys R Us is hiring 45,000 seasonal workers to staff up its pop up stores and help fulfill its expanded customer services, like shipping online purchases to stores, this holiday. That a nearly 13 percent jump from the 40,000 seasonal workers the Wayne, N.J.-

based company hired in 2011. Toys R Us, like many retailers, hires thousands of temporary workers during the important holiday season, which can account for up to 40 percent of a retailer's annual revenue. Toys R Us said part of the increase is to help fulfill customer orders made with its new online shipping options, such as ordering online and picking up items in store; as well as its free layaway program and its new toy reservation system. Toys R Us has been beefing up these options to help draw customers into stores, as it faces increasing competition from online retailers and discount stores. (AP)

# Nation

## Romney assails Obama after US ambassador's death

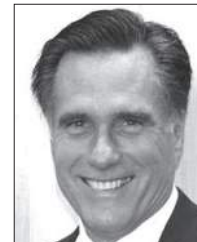
**PUEBLO, Colo.** (AP)—Mitt Romney led a chorus of Republican criticism of the administration's foreign policy on Monday, accusing President Barack Obama of minimizing the recent killing of the U.S. ambassador to Libya as a mere "bump in the road" rather than part of a chain of events that threatens American interests.

White House press secretary Jay Carney called the accusations "desperate and offensive" as Romney and his allies sought to gain political advantage in the latter stages of a political campaign that seems to be trending Obama's way.

The president did not comment on the criticism when he and first lady Michelle Obama taped an appearance on ABC's "The View" that blended the personal with the political. Asked if a Romney presidency would be a disas-

ter, Obama said the nation can "survive a lot." He added: "The American people don't want to just survive, we want to thrive."

The back and forth on foreign policy occurred as Romney said he was shifting to a more energetic schedule of public campaign events, bidding to reverse recent erosion in battleground state polls. After days spent largely raising campaign cash—and trying to minimize the fallout from one speech



Romney

to donors last spring—he pledged to make the case for "real and positive change."

While national polls make the race exceedingly close, Obama has gained ground on Romney in many recent surveys when potential voters are asked to compare the

two rivals in their ability to fix the economy. Sluggish growth and national unemployment of 8.1 percent make the economy by far the dominant issue in the race, and the two men have focused much of their time and advertising budgets on highlighting their differences on taxes, spending and plans for job creation.

The same polls show Obama with a healthy lead over Romney when voters are asked which candidate is better

equipped to handle foreign policy, and the president has not shied away from trumpeting his decision to order the secret mission by U.S. forces that killed terrorism mastermind Osama bin Laden in his Pakistani hideout more than a year ago.

## 2 Marines to be court-martialed in urination case

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Two Marine non-commissioned officers will be court-martialed for allegedly urinating on the bodies of Taliban fighters last year in Afghanistan and posing for unofficial photos with casualties, the Marine Corps said Monday.

The charges against Staff Sgt. Joseph W. Chamblin and Staff Sgt. Edward W. Deptola are in addition to administrative punishments announced last month for three other, more junior Marines for their role in the urination episode.

The disclosure in January of a video showing four Marines in full combat gear urinating on the bodies of three dead men led to a criminal investigation by the Naval Criminal Investi-

gative Service as well as a Marine investigation of the unit involved, the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, which fought in the southern Afghan province of Helmand for seven months before returning to its home base at Camp Lejeune, N.C., last September.

In the video, one of the Marines looked down at the bodies and quipped, "Have a good day, buddy."

In a statement Monday, the Marine Corps said disciplinary actions against additional Marines will be announced later. It also said there are "other pending cases related to this incident," but said no specifics would be made public now.

The urination video was

one in a string of embarrassing episodes for U.S. forces in Afghanistan in recent months. American troops have been caught up in controversies over burning Muslim holy books, posing for photos with insurgents' bloodied remains and an alleged massacre of 16 Afghan villagers by a soldier now in U.S. confinement.

The Marine Corps said the urination took place during a counterinsurgency operation in the Musa Qala district of Helmand province on July 27, 2011. The decision to court martial Chamblin and Deptola was made by Lt. Gen. Richard P. Mills, the commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Condolences pour in for 6-day-old panda cub

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—As condolences poured in from around the world, National Zoo officials waited Monday for word on why a 6-day-old panda cub died and lamented a heartbreaking setback to their closely watched breeding program. The cub had liver abnormalities and fluid in its abdomen, but a cause of death will not be known until full necropsy results are available within two weeks. The cub, believed to be female, died Sunday morning, less than a week after its birth surprised and delighted zoo officials and visitors. Zookeepers had all but given up on the panda mother's chances of conceiving after six years of failed attempts. "Every loss is hard,"

National Zoo director Dennis Kelly said. "This one is especially devastating."

#### FBI to investigate officer shooting double-amputee

**HOUSTON** (AP)—A caretaker at a group home for the mentally ill called police in the middle of the night because a one-armed, one-legged man in a wheelchair was angry and wouldn't calm down. What happened next is the subject of an investigation that now involves the FBI. One of the two Houston police officers who entered the home fatally shot the double-amputee in the head, saying he was cornered by the wheelchair and thought his partner was being threatened by what turned out to be a ballpoint pen. Houston's police chief responded

Monday to escalating criticism about the weekend shooting by cautioning against a rush to judgment. Community and civil rights groups say the incident is another example of problems the police department has with using excessive force. "It is my desire to have everyone reserve judgment until all the facts and evidence in this investigation have been gathered," Houston Police Chief Charles McClelland said. Officer Matthew Marin shot 45-year-old Brian Claunch early Saturday after responding to a call that the man, who reportedly lost two limbs in a train accident, was causing a disturbance. Police say Claunch cornered and threatened to kill Marin, who reportedly told investigators he didn't know the object in Claunch's hand was a pen.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Apple supplier halts China factory after violence

**BEIJING** (AP)—The company that makes Apple's iPhones suspended production at a factory in China on Monday after a brawl by as many as 2,000 employees at a dormitory injured 40 people. The fight, the cause of which is under investigation, erupted Sunday night at a privately managed dormitory near a Foxconn Technology Group factory in the northern city of Taiyuan, the company and Chinese police said. A police statement reported by the official Xinhua News Agency said 5,000 officers were dispatched to



# Asia

## Pakistan disowns bounty on filmmaker



Pakistani Shiite Muslim women chant anti U.S. slogans during a demonstration that is part of widespread anger across the Muslim world about a film ridiculing Islam's Prophet Muhammad, Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012 in Lahore, Pakistan.

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The Pakistani government on Monday distanced itself from an offer by one of its Cabinet ministers to pay \$100,000 to anyone who kills the maker of an anti-Islam film that has sparked violent protests across the Muslim world.

The film, "Innocence of Muslims," has enraged many Muslims for its portrayal of the Prophet Muhammad as a fraud, a womanizer and a child molester. At least 51 people, including the U.S. ambassador to Libya, have been killed in violence linked to protests over the film, which also has renewed debate over freedom of expression in

the U.S. and in Europe.

Adding to the anger in the Muslim world was a decision by a French satirical magazine to publish lewd pictures of the prophet last week, prompting French authorities to order the temporary closure of around 20 overseas missions out of fear they'd be targeted by demonstrators.

Some of the most intense and sustained protests have come in Pakistan, where the role of Islam in society is sacrosanct and anti-American sentiment runs high. But even in that atmosphere, the bounty offered by Railways Minister Ghulam Ahmad Bilour

has drawn criticism.

Bilour said Saturday that he would pay \$100,000 out of his own pocket to anyone who kills the man behind the inflammatory film, Nakoula Basseley Nakoula. The filmmaker was forced into hiding after the 14-minute movie trailer rose to prominence.

Bilour also appealed to al-Qaida and Taliban militants to help eliminate the filmmaker.

Pakistan's Foreign Office said in a statement Monday that the bounty on the filmmaker's head reflected Bilour's personal view and was not official government policy.

## Philippines: Marcos clothes have no historic value

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A Philippine official said Monday that a legendary collection of shoes and other possessions left behind by former first lady Imelda Marcos and her dictator husband when they were ousted by a 1986 "people power" revolt have no historical significance, except for some Philippine-made gowns.

Communications Undersecretary Manolo Quezon issued the statement after National Museum officials acknowledged that the collection of Marcos' clothes and shoes had been neglected for more than two decades and some had been damaged by a monsoon storm last month.

Museum officials told The Associated Press on Sunday that termites, storms and neglect

damaged part of Mrs. Marcos' collection of at least 1,220 pairs of shoes and other items while they were stored from 1986 to 2010 at the Malacanang presidential palace and later at the National Museum in Manila.

More than 150 cartons of clothes, dress accessories and shoes were transferred to the National Museum for safekeeping two years ago from the riverside palace. They deteriorated further at the museum after the boxes were stored in a padlocked room that was inundated by heavy rains last month because of a leak in the ceiling, museum officials said.

Quezon said the contents of the boxes have "no historical significance except some of the clothes" made by prominent

Philippine couturiers. Museum officials said the Philippine-made gowns might be displayed in public, but they were wary because of the "politically sensitive nature of their provenance."

A Philippine historian, Michael Xiao Chua, said the Marcos items are important and should have been displayed to remind current and future generations of Marcos' dictatorial rule and encourage them to safeguard the country's democracy.

The damaged items include native see-through barong shirts, which Marcos often wore in public ceremonies during his 20-year rule. AP journalists saw a barong shirt with a presidential seal on top of a box of 100 shirts which had reddish stains and a sleeve that was nearly torn off.

Justice Department has revised murder charges against nearly 200 suspects to include Momay as a victim. Members of the Ampatuan clan and gunmen arrested with them have pleaded not guilty. They are accused of killing 32 journalists and many supporters of the clan's political opponent who traveled in a convoy of vehicles.

### US drone strike in Pakistan kills 5 militants

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—A pair of missiles fired from an unmanned

American spy aircraft slammed into a militant hideout in northwestern Pakistan on Monday evening, killing five militants, said Pakistani intelligence officials. The two officials said missiles from the drone aircraft hit the village of Dawar Musaki in the North Waziristan region, which borders Afghanistan to the west. The officials spoke anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to the media. Some of the dead were believed to be foreign fighters but the officials did not know how many or where they were from.

# World

## Ahmadinejad speech sparks Israel walkout

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—Iran's president called Israel a nuclear-armed "fake regime" shielded by the United States, prompting Israel's U.N. ambassador to walk out of a high-level U.N. meeting Monday promoting the rule of law.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also accused the U.S. and others of misusing freedom of speech and failing to speak out against the defamation of people's beliefs and "divine prophets," an apparent reference to the recently circulated amateur video made in the U.S. which attacks Islam and denigrates the Prophet Muhammad.

The Iranian leader, who has called for Israel's destruction, used his speech to denounce Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory and U.S. vetoes in the U.N. Security Council to back its ally. He urged all nations to "hold occupiers accountable and make efforts to return the occupied territories to their rightful owners."

Ahmadinejad blamed the "discriminatory" veto power of the U.S., China, Russia, Britain and France for the Security Council's failure to en-

sure peace in the world, and he called for a change in the rules "in favor of nations with due regard to justice."

As Ahmadinejad addressed leaders and ministers from more than 100 countries, Israel's U.N. Ambassador Ron Prosor walked out of the General Assembly hall.

"Ahmadinejad showed again that he not only threatens the future of the Jewish people, he seeks to erase our past," Prosor said in a statement.

"Three thousand years of Jewish history illustrate the clear danger of ignoring fanatics like Iran's President, especially as he inches closer to acquiring nuclear weapons," he said. "Those who ignore his hateful words today, will bear responsibility for his deeds tomorrow."

Israel views a nuclear-armed Iran as an existential threat, but Iran insists its nuclear program is purely peaceful and aimed solely at producing nuclear energy. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu believes



Ahmadinejad

Tehran is moving closer to producing a nuclear weapon and has been pushing the United States to set "red lines" which, if crossed, might lead to American military action. President Barack Obama has refused to set any "red lines."

The U.S. delegation did not walk out of Monday's meeting, as it has in the past when Iran attacked Israel directly.

Ahmadinejad did not name either Israel or the U.S. in his speech but his targets were clear when he said: "We have witnessed that some members of the Security Council with veto right have chosen si-

lence with regard to the nuclear warheads of a fake regime while at the same time they impede scientific progress of other nations."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon organized the first-ever high-level U.N. meeting on the rule of law hoping to send a strong signal to people everywhere that world leaders "are serious about establishing well-functioning institutions and delivering justice."

## Winter onset latest challenge for Syrian civilians

**TEL RIFAAT, Syria** (AP)—The days are still warm across the fertile plains of northern Syria around Aleppo, but night brings a chill—an ominous harbinger of winter's approach and the deepening of the already severe humanitarian crisis gripping a country wracked by civil war.

Warm temperatures and plentiful food have cushioned the blow somewhat for hundreds of thousands of Syrians displaced from their homes or living in refugee camps across the border. But the arrival of near-freezing temperatures could mean greater suffering and even deaths from exposure, as international aid

agencies scramble to cope.

Among the first things to go will be the practice of sleeping outside to avoid the artillery and airstrikes that rain down late night death on homes.

"Most people sleep in the fields at night, out of fear of the bombardments of the towns," said Abu Mohammed, who has taken to sleeping in the olive orchards outside Tel Rifaat, a rebel-controlled town north of Aleppo. "In the winter the suffering will only increase."

Like many people in Syria, he asked that his real name not be used for fear of retribution should the government retake his town.

## Libya appoints military officers to head militias

**TRIPOLI, Libya** (AP)—Libya's military command appointed Monday a pair of army officers to head two powerful Islamist militias in the country's east, part of the government's push to rein in armed factions.

The move reflects the pressure on the government to control or disband the country's militias, many of which it had relied upon for securing Libya in the turmoil following last year's ouster and killing of longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Col. Ali al-Sheikhi, the spokesman for Libya's joint chiefs of staff, told the news agency LANA that the chiefs of the Rafallah Sahati Brigade and the Feb. 17 Brigade, two groups that authorities had al-

lowed to manage security in the eastern city of Benghazi, would be replaced with army commanders.

Anger at the militias boiled over following the killing of the top American diplomat in Libya and three U.S. mission staffers in an assault on the consulate in Benghazi on Sept. 11. The attack followed an angry protest against an anti-Islam film produced in the U.S. which has riled many in the Muslim world.

Members of the radical Islamist Ansar al-Shariah militia are suspected of being behind the attack.

Many of Libya's militias were formed in the eight-month war against Gadhafi, but more groups sprang up after the end

of fighting in October. With the country trying to rebuild after 42 years of Gadhafi, the groups paid little attention to successive interim leaders. They were accused of bullying citizens, operating independent prisons and holding summary trials for Gadhafi loyalists. Recently, Islamist-led militias have also attacked shrines, such as tombs associated with religious figures, that they considered to be counter to their strict view of Islam.

This Friday, thousands of protesters marched against the militias in Benghazi, the cradle of the uprising against Gadhafi, and stormed two of their compounds. Militiamen at the Sahati Brigade's compound fired at the protesters, killing nearly a dozen.

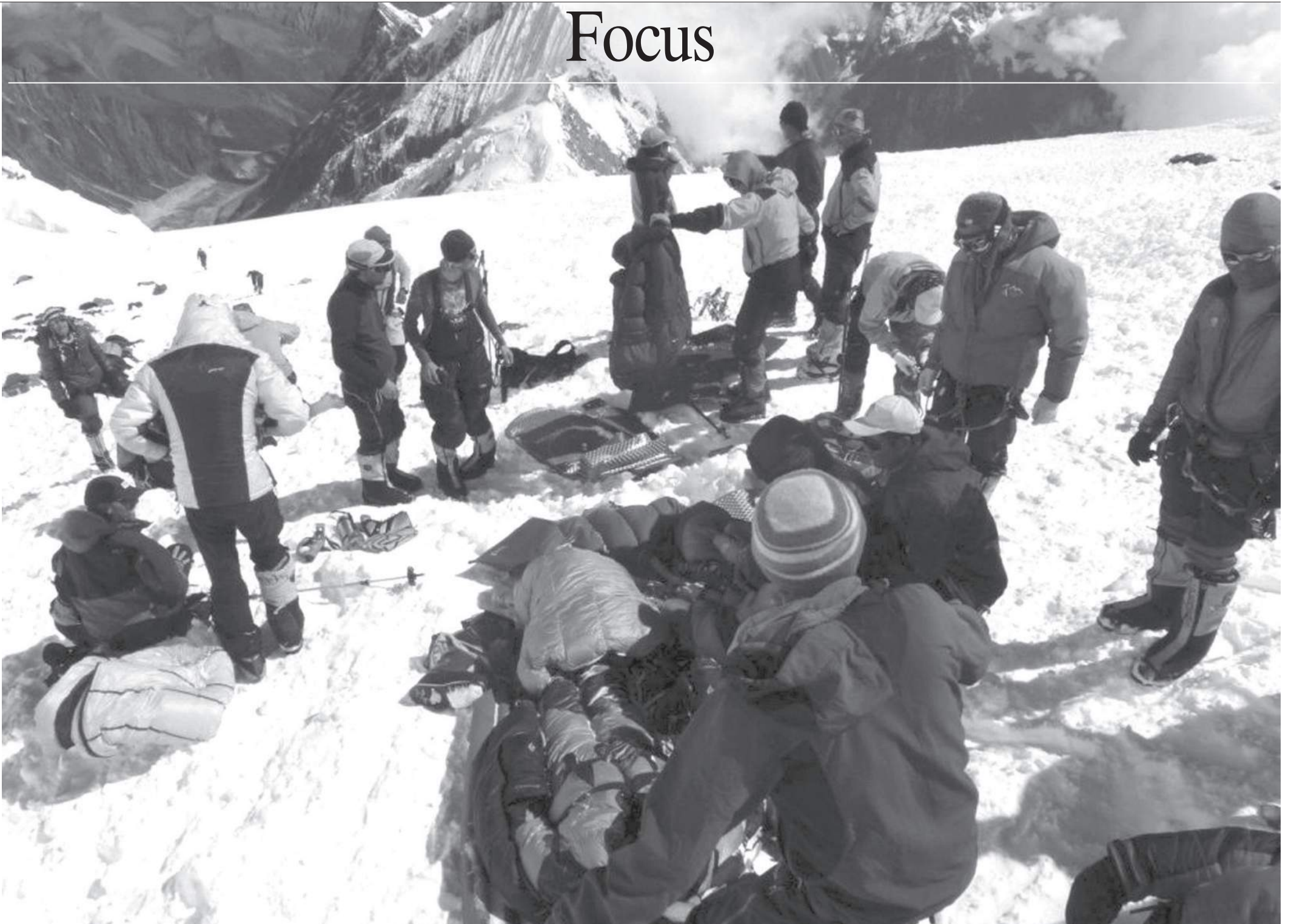
### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Philippines confirms 58th victim in 2009 massacre

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—The Philippines has formally recognized a photojournalist as the 58th victim of a 2009 politically motivated massacre. The body of Reynaldo Momay has not been found. The Justice Department included him based on his dentures found at the scene of the killings blamed on a powerful southern clan. Quezon City Regional Trial Court clerk Jimmy Cardines said in Manila on Tuesday that the



# Focus



In this picture taken Sunday, Sept. 23, 2012 and released by Alpine Ascents International, rescuers and climbers prepare survivors for evacuation from the debris field of an avalanche on Mount Manaslu in northern Nepal. Rescue helicopters flew over the high slopes of the northern Nepal peak again Monday to search for climbers lost in an avalanche that killed at least nine mountaineers and injured others. Many of the climbers were French, German and Italian. AP

## Terrifying hour in darkness after Nepal avalanche

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

**K**ATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—The mountaineers were in darkness when they heard the thunderous boom, the crush of snow. Helplessly, they slid down Mount Mansalu, the world's eighth-highest peak.

It would take an hour for the sun to rise and for the survivors to see what horrors the avalanche had wrought.

Pieces of tents and bodies of victims were strewn around on the snow on the Himalayan peak in Nepal. Several other people were injured, and more still were simply gone.

"It was only a few seconds and we did not know what happened, but we had slid more than 200 meters (650 feet)," Italian climber Silvio Mondinelli told The Associated Press on Monday. "All we wanted was for it to stop."

Rescuers have brought down eight bodies—four French, one each from Germany, Italy and Spain, and a Nepali

guide. Many of the 10 survivors, including Mondinelli, were injured and flown to hospitals by rescue helicopters.

The number of climbers unaccounted for is unclear. Officials had said Monday that they were attempting to recover a ninth body, and that six other people remained missing, but they were more tentative about those numbers Tuesday.

Police Chief Basanta Bahadur Kular said there was a lot of confusion among the climbers and since the avalanche occurred at an elevation of 7,000 meters (22,960 feet), it was difficult for anyone but trained Sherpa guides to reach.

Nepal Mountaineering Department chief Balkrishan Ghimire said Tuesday that officials had the names of only three people reported missing. The government does not have officials posted on the mountain and the nearest police station is a two-day trek away from the base camp.

Two French climbers were still un-

accounted for as of Monday afternoon, the French Foreign Ministry said.

The aerial search for the missing has ended, but officials said Sherpa guides were continuing to search the snowy slopes.

The avalanche hit about 4 a.m. Sunday while more than two dozen climbers were sleeping in tents at Camp 3 on Mount Manaslu.

Three French climbers and two Germans were transported to hospitals in Katmandu on Sunday. Two Italians were flown there Monday—Mondinelli, who has climbed the world's 14 highest peaks, and fellow mountaineer Christian Gobbi.

Mondinelli said a third Italian climber and their Sherpa guide were sleeping in another tent and both were buried by the avalanche and died.

Mondinelli and Gobbi looked out of their torn tent after the avalanche, but with no light, they saw nothing. "We found someone's boots and put them on," Gobbi said.

When the sun rose, they said, they were able to assist the injured with the help of Sherpa guides who came up from lower mountain camps. The survivors who could walk made their way down to the base camp while those who more seriously injured were picked up by helicopters.

The Nepal Mountaineering Department identified the eight recovered bodies as Fabrice Priez, Philippe Lucien Bos, Catherine Marie Andree Richard and Ludovic Paul Nicolas Challeat of France; German Christian Mittermeyer; Italian Alberto Magliano; Spaniard Marti Roig Gasull; and Nepali Dawa Dorji.

At least three of the victims were from the French Alps town of Chamonix, a hub for climbers on Mont Blanc and nearby peaks. An avalanche on a route to the summit of Mont Blanc in July killed nine experienced climbers.

Sunday's avalanche came at the start of Nepal's autumn climbing season, when the end of the monsoon rains

makes weather in the high Himalayas unpredictable. Spring is a more popular mountaineering season, when hundreds of climbers crowd the peaks.

Mount Manaslu, which is 8,156 meters (26,760 feet) high, has attracted more climbers recently because it is considered one of the easier peaks to climb among the world's tallest mountains.

A total of 231 climbers and guides were on the mountain, but not all were at the higher camps hit by the avalanche.

Nepal has eight of the 14 highest peaks in the world. Climbers have said in recent years that conditions on the mountains have deteriorated and risks of accidents have increased, with some blaming global warming.

Avalanches are not very frequent on Mount Manaslu, but in 1972 one struck a team of climbers and killed six Koreans and 10 Nepalese guides.

*Associated Press writer Angela Charlton in Paris contributed to this report.*



# Campus Life

## College Board: SAT reading scores lowest in 40 years

By JOHN HILDEBRAND  
NEWSDAY

National reading scores on the SAT college-entrance exam have sunk to their lowest point in 40 years, and the proportion of test

takers deemed fully prepared for college remains flat at 43 percent, the test's sponsors announced Monday morning.

The average score on the exam's "critical reading" section among this year's college-

bound seniors dropped to 496 points, down one point from last year and 34 points from 1972. Each of the SAT's three sections—critical reading, writing and mathematics—is scored on a range of 200 to 800.

Writing scores also dipped one point from last year, to 488—the lowest result since an essay-writing section was added to the test in 2006. The average writing score in that initial year was 497.

SAT math scores remained steady from last year, at an average 514 nationwide. That score, too, was down from a peak of 520, recorded in 2005.

The College Board calculated that 43 percent of SAT takers in this year's freshman class were well-prepared for studies at four-year colleges—the same figure as in 2011. That's based on the percentage of students scoring a combined 1550 points—an indication they would earn a B- average or better during their first year of college.

"When less than half of kids who want to go to college are prepared to do so, that system is failing," said Gaston Caperon, president of the Manhattan-based College Board, which sponsors the admissions test.

The College Board itself has faced criticism since last year, when security lapses in SAT administration led to charges of cheating against more than 15 Long Island students. The case revolved around a graduate of Great Neck North High School, Sam Eshaghoff, who

was charged with accepting thousands of dollars for taking the college-admissions tests for other students, using forged student IDs.

As a result of that investigation, the College Board has put new security precautions in place for the next round of SAT testing that begins Oct. 6. One new requirement that will take effect early in 2013 is that test-takers will have to upload photos of themselves for the tickets that are issued to those scheduled for testing.

According to SAT results released Monday, New York State's average reading score dropped two points from last year, to 478. Writing scores also were down one point, at 469. Math results rose a point, to 498.

The proportion of New York State students taking the SAT—88 percent—is one of the highest in the country. As a result, New York's score averages tend to be lower than averages in states where student participation rates are lower.

## Appreciating the iPads in the classroom



Yasin Abdi, left, and Jazmine Dunn work on iPads at Hopkins West Junior High in Minneapolis, Minnesota, on September 11, 2012. In this seventh-grade social studies class, every student gets to keep one of the Apple tablets for the year.

By AIMEE BLANCHETTE  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**MINNEAPOLIS**—The notice could be posted in any campus building: "iPad issues? Visit the Genius Bar in the Media Center."

But this isn't college. It's Hopkins West Junior High.

Inside Kim Campbell's seventh-grade social studies class, every student gets to keep one of the Apple tablets for the year. They use them constantly, researching class projects, reading e-books and communicating with teachers. On this day, students are using a maps app to study geography.

The iPads in Hopkins' schools are just one edge of a digital revolution in metro-area classrooms that is changing teaching and learning as fast as the latest device is introduced. YouTube videos are replacing in-class lectures. Music applications help students learn to read music and play instruments. Teachers distribute and grade assignments digitally. Gadgets once seen as distractions are now front and center on desks as essential learning tools.

For parents, the rapid changes can be bewildering. Some skeptics argue the technologies are expensive and create a digital divide between schools that can afford them and those that cannot. Others say they are being deployed

too quickly, without teachers being trained to use them.

But schools show no sign of pausing or turning back.

"The students coming to us are already digital learners," said David Treichel, instructional technology facilitator for Minnesota's Anoka-Hennepin school district. "It's no longer an option to teach them in a traditional setting."

Some say the iPad is the biggest technological innovation to hit schools since the overhead projector. A New Media Consortium report this summer described tablet computing, mobile devices and apps as the most rapidly emerging school technologies.

Millions are being allocated to outfit classrooms with the latest technology. During the 2010-2011 school year, Minnesota districts spent \$100.6 million on upgrades or new technology, up from \$74.4 million in 2006-07. Expensive, outdated textbooks are being replaced with devices easily updated with the latest course materials and applications.

"It motivates me to do my work because it's a lot more fun," said seventh-grader George Greeley. "I was more excited than usual to come back to school this year."

He navigates his iPad like a pro, adding blue placemarks to pinpoint Great Britain, Boston and New York on a map, then

helps a classmate as they trace the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers across the screen with their fingers. "You can pretty much do anything with these things," he observed.

When Jason Szporn walks the halls of Edina High School, he sees students watching videos on their smartphones.

The teacher of advanced placement economics knows they're not just killing time. They're doing homework.

Along with a handful of other Minnesota teachers, Szporn has "flipped" his classroom—moving himself from the whiteboard in front of the class to the handheld devices in students' pockets.

Szporn records and posts his lessons online for students to access at lunch, on the bus or at home. Class is spent working on difficult material together, giving teachers more one-on-one time with students.

"As teachers, we're always looking for ways to give kids more responsibility for their own education," Szporn said. "I could never find a way to do that until now."

Proponents say the approach works particularly well for struggling students, who can work at their own pace, replaying the videos as needed.

Szporn and other teachers with flipped classrooms report markedly improved student

test scores.

Eden Prairie, Minn., sophomore Chris Timm started a flipped algebra II course this fall. Although he isn't struggling academically, he often misses class for cross country meets and catches up on the bus.

"I can be virtually anywhere and watch the lesson and get the same benefits as if I were in class," he said. "So far, it's been phenomenal for me."

Parents with initial hesitations about too much screen time for kids also say they see potential—and necessity—in the digital changes.

When Lisa Pole of Plymouth, Minn., learned that her fourth-grade daughter would use an iPad this fall at Plymouth Creek Elementary, she had concerns.

"My first thought was, 'Great, my kids are going to sit in class and play Angry Birds all day long.'"

But after seeing how easy the iPads are to use—kids become their own experts by getting answers to their questions through YouTube videos or educational apps—Pole changed her tune. Now she plans to get schooled on the iPad herself.

"Being a computer-literate citizen is one of the things my kids need when they get out of the school system," she said. "It's an expectation that they'll be able to do this stuff and do it well."

## PREL awarded grant to raise 'water literacy' in the Pacific

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—Pacific Resources for Education and Learning has received a new multi-year, multimillion dollar grant from the National Science Foundation's Division of Informal Science Education: *Water for Life: Community Education for Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting in the United States Affiliated Pacific Islands* (Water for Life).

The five-year project will create and implement an engaging Informal Science Education program for youth and adults with powerful professional development and community service learning components to meet two challenges faced by rural residents of four Pacific island entities in the Freely Associated States: (1) infrastructure to nurture and promote informal science education learning and (2) fresh water scarcity.

Water for Life will address these challenges by helping FAS individuals and organizations build ISE capacity through developing locally-relevant, broad-based, self-sustaining "water literacy." Extended, in-depth Water for Life learning programs in each of the four entities will provide professional development to community leaders and educators, and will also promote and foster broad ISE and community-based, water-related, service-learning projects, along with stewardship, monitoring, and conservation.

Principal investigators Dr.

Ethan Allen (PREL) and Dr. Danko Taborosi (Island Research & Education Initiative) anticipate that Water for Life will foster robust informal science learning around the topic of water among FAS leaders, professionals, community members, and youth, while facilitating learning, networking, and interactions among FAS stakeholders in education, health, and community development.

"This grant is a great opportunity to simultaneously foster capacity-building in the Pacific Islands around both a near-term, pressing need—how to meet the growing demands for drinking water via rainwater catchment in these islands with swelling populations and increasingly unpredictable weather patterns—and, a longer-term, critical mandate—how to build the broad-based STEM literacy required to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century," said Allen, PREL's director of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

This award adds to PREL's portfolio of STEM research, programming, and evaluation.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit corporation headquartered in Hawaii, with offices in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. (PREL)



## Life & Style

# Bieber mom Pattie Mallette writes of painful past

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Pattie Mallette was 18, living in a home for pregnant girls after years of unrelenting sex abuse and depression when she gave birth to a boy she thought she'd name Jesse, a boy whose first cry sounded like a song.

Well, the baby seemed more like a Justin after he popped out. And his last name isn't Mallette.

It's Bieber.

You'd have to be firmly under a rock not to know at least a little bit about Justin Bieber's YouTube-to-riches story, his loyal fan base of Beliebers, 28 million Twitter followers or the hordes of screaming girls who pack his tours.

What you probably don't know are his mother's struggles, starting with the painful divorce of her parents, through years of emotional turmoil and hard partying that made school a blur, and her eventual turn to God after a suicide attempt about six months before Justin was conceived.

Mallette, 37, has laid bare her past in a new book, "Nowhere but Up: The story of Justin Bieber's Mom," out recently from the inspirational publisher Revell. It's a powerful, plainspoken story, written in collaboration with A.J. Gregory, a mother herself. A portion of proceeds have been promised to shelters like the one that harbored Mallette in Canada when her mother kicked her out of the house after she got pregnant.

Her troubles began well be-

fore that, however, and Mallette has forgotten little.

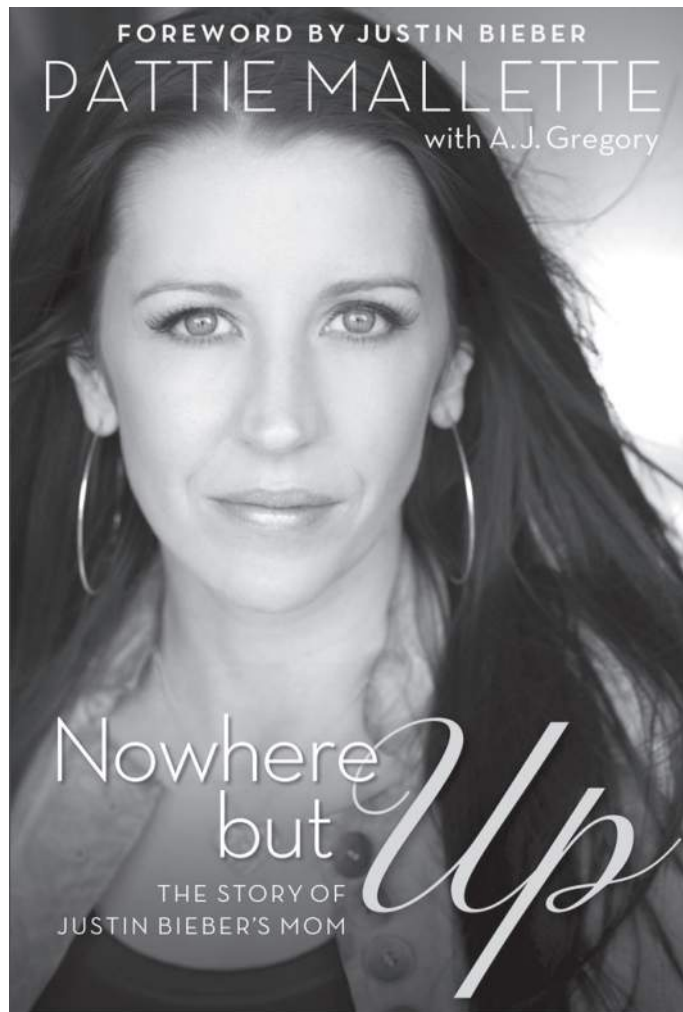
"Writing the book was part of my healing process," she said in an interview. "Just having to relive things as I'm writing it down. There are parts that are still painful to go over."

She was 2 when she watched her alcoholic, abusive father walk out the door and about 3 when she was first sexually abused by someone she knew. Mallette doesn't identify her numerous molesters, including a male baby sitter and the grandfather of a friend, but the last words of her book's acknowledgments speak volumes. "To my abusers: I forgive you."

"I was sexually violated so many times that as the years went by it began to feel normal," wrote the petite Mallette. "It's a strange marriage—knowing something is wrong yet at the same time finding it familiar and commonplace."

Fear, shame and the notion that she was an unlovable, "dirty girl" stretched through her life. She said the "void of having a father in my heart" led her down rough paths, including drinking and drugging to oblivion, beginning at age 14.

There was pot smoking and



This book cover image released by Revell Books shows "Nowhere but Up: The Story of Justin Bieber's Mom," an autobiography by Pattie Mallette. The book was released on Sept. 18, 2012.

LSD. She left home at 16. To support herself and pay for her destructive habits, she turned to petty crime and pot dealing—and the toxic, on-again-off-again, four-year relationship she had with Justin's father, Jeremy Bieber, that began when she was 15. At 17, she threw herself in front of a truck and landed in

a mental ward.

It was there that she was led to a Christian life, though her faith faltered soon after and she fell back in with her old friends. Sex with Jeremy left her pregnant. She resisted intense pressure from those around her to have an abortion: "I knew that I had to do what it took. I just

couldn't abort him."

There was no returning home and she went on government assistance after Justin was born. She worked part-time jobs for diapers and rent, wondering how to proceed without a high school diploma, wondering how she could go back to school with no one to care for Justin.

With the help of a neighbor who paid for a year's worth of daycare, Mallette slowly earned her degree, followed by college training in website design on scholarship.

Meanwhile, her son's perfect rhythm on the drums, his guitar playing and singing talent, surfaced early, along with a hyperactive nature and love of soccer and hockey.

He earned extra cash as a busker on guitar and a djembe drum he had received as a gift. Singing on the streets for money is something Mallette said she never forced him to do but earned them thousands of dollars after the first time he tried for fun at age 6.

Success snowballed when Justin was 12 on the strength of YouTube videos Mallette posted for faraway relatives that were quickly discovered by young people and exploded with millions of views. Along came Scooter Braun, a persistent manager who launched Justin's career at barely 13, fresh out of junior high.

He's 18 now, his mother's age when she had him. Mallette said he's pushing for his independence, moving alone into a house he bought in Calabasas,

California. Mom wasn't invited to join him but lives nearby.

"He doesn't want me in his space so much but he's doing really well for himself," said Mallette, who once traveled with him everywhere.

Justin has a fancy sports car that was a gift from Braun and earned him a speeding ticket in July as he was chased by paparazzi. He also has a girlfriend, Selena Gomez, whom Mallette adores.

"She's just a sweetheart. She's kind and generous and loving," said mom, who's often called just that by fans on Twitter.

Mallette first told Justin about her past when he was about 12, after she began sharing at small-group meetings.

"I felt like he was old enough, mature enough to hear my story, and, you know, talk about it," Mallette said. "I feel like it's really important for us to talk, and I've always asked him a lot of questions and always tried to protect him from going through the same sort of thing."

At 21, Mallette made a choice to abstain from sex outside of marriage. Still never married and holding strong, she is ready let go of another promise, this one to Justin when they first moved to the states that she wouldn't date until he was 18.

"It's time to start dating," she smiled.

Will Justin have a say over suitors?

"I think he's going to be a tough one to please," Mallette said. "He's pretty protective, but yeah, definitely, he would have to approve."

## Schwarzenegger back—this time as think tank guru

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—He's been a governor, a movie star and the world's greatest body builder, but Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't done yet.

The man who never tires of telling people he'll be back returned again Monday, this time as a global policy wonk and statesman dedicated to leading America into what he calls a new post-partisan era.

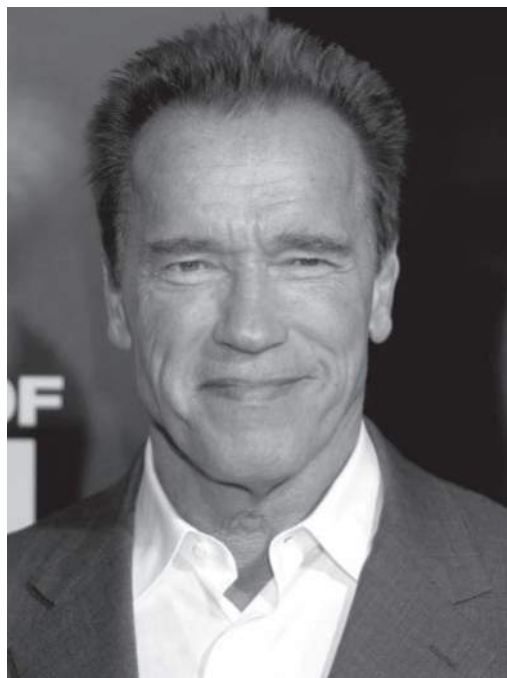
Schwarzenegger, in a dark suit, crisp white shirt and red tie, appeared at the University of Southern California to officially launch the USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy with a symposium featuring some of the most notable names in politics and entertainment.

For the former Republican governor, the symposium marked a sudden public re-emergence after leaving office nearly two years ago with a mixed record that he suggested Monday accomplished about half of what he had set out to do.

He's hoping that through the institute, created with a \$20 million commitment from Schwarzenegger and others, he can accomplish the rest, tackling issues such as hunger, health care and global warming.

Officials say he'll also take an active role in teaching at USC. The institute's academic director, Nancy Staudt, referred to him several times as "professor Schwarzenegger."

Schwarzenegger is also publishing his autobiography next week and has a pair of movies in post-production. One of them, "The Tomb," co-stars his old buddy Sylvester Stallone. The other, "The Last Stand," opens in January and got a brief



Arnold Schwarzenegger attends the LA premiere of "End of Watch" at Regal Cinemas L.A. Live on Monday, Sept. 17, 2012, in Los Angeles.

plug at the symposium's afternoon panel discussion on Hollywood and culture.

His return to the spotlight will also include a segment Sunday on "60 Minutes" to promote the book and discuss, among other things, the affair he had with his maid that resulted in a son out of wedlock and destroyed his marriage to Maria Shriver.

No questions were taken during the symposium's first panel, which was attended by about 700 people and featured Schwarzenegger in an hour-long discussion of partisan politics that was moderated by Cokie Roberts and featured Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and others.

The former governor doffed his tie for the second panel, where he was joined by recording industry executive Jimmy Iovine in a Bruce Springsteen shirt. Other panelists included studio executives Brian Grazer and Ron Meyer, and director James Cameron, who helmed Schwarzenegger's first two "Terminator" films.

A handful of questions from USC students were taken, but none was addressed to Schwarzenegger.

No mention was made of the maid scandal or the huge budget deficit that Schwarzenegger, who had promised to bring fiscal accountability to politics, allowed to run up during his seven years as governor. His successor, Jerry Brown, has said he'll drastically cut services if voters don't approve tax increases in November.

Also unmentioned was Schwarzenegger's controversial decision during his last hours as governor to commute the involuntary manslaughter sentence of the son of a former political ally. Schwarzenegger said at the time he cut Esteban Nunez's sentence to seven years from 16 because he thought the latter was excessive. But he also acknowledged he was helping a friend, former state Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez.

Schwarzenegger did make a brief reference to

Shriver's politics when he said cooperation among Republicans and Democrats is key to solving the nation's problems.

"I never looked at the Democrats as villains," he said. "Remember, I was married to a Democrat for 25 years."

He called repeatedly for bipartisan cooperation, as McCain called the current presidential campaign the most bitter he has ever observed.

"You cannot just do it my way or the highway. I tried that and I failed," Schwarzenegger said at one point, noting his lack of success when he tried early in his administration to bypass the state Legislature by bringing his agenda directly to the voters in a series of failed ballot initiatives.

Overall, however, he painted a bright picture of his time as governor. During his welcoming remarks, he said his administration took the lead in pushing to stem global warming, provide health care to its citizens, and rebuild the state's infrastructure while the federal government was gridlocked on those issues.

He also noted that California committed \$3 billion to stem cell research when he was governor and created an independent, citizen-led commission to more fairly draw state legislative districts. He didn't mention that the stem cell research project was made possible when voters passed a ballot initiative creating the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

He said he wants the Schwarzenegger Institute to continue to take on those issues and others, collaborating with innovators of all political backgrounds.

"No ideology has a monopoly on solutions," he said.



## For a swinging good time, wife may have to divorce

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I have been married for 10 years. Early in our marriage my husband talked about wanting to try swinging. We did, and had many enjoyable experiences.

Two years ago he decided he no longer wanted to be in the lifestyle, so we stopped. The problem is, I miss it very much. I want to get back into it and have talked with him about it, but he insists we stay out of it. I am torn between going to parties behind his back, suffering my displeasure in silence because I'm not able to do something I really enjoyed, or divorcing. Can you help me figure this out?

FOXY IN PHOENIX



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR FOXY:** Let's review your options as a process of elimination. I don't recommend that you do anything behind your husband's back because, at some point, what you're doing is sure to come out. I also do not recommend suffering in silence because sooner or later your unhappiness will become apparent.

That leaves the option of divorce. Because you and your husband no longer see eye to eye on the issue of marital fidelity and he wants a wife who will "cleave" unto him only, it makes sense to go your separate ways so both of your needs can be met.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** The other day when I went jogging, I met a guy just as I stopped to take a water break. He started flirting and I was too tired to tell him to leave, so I decided to humor him until I cooled down enough to resume my jog.

He asked me basic questions trying to get to know me, and when I told him I was a college student, he asked for my GPA. When I told him it was none of his business, he laughed and asked what my problem was. He said no one else had complained when he asked, and he didn't mean to pry. I still felt he was being rude, so I said goodbye and jogged off before he could say anything.

Abby, I wasn't trying to hide a low GPA, but I don't think it's something to tell people in a first meeting. Is it normal for people to ask others what their GPA is—especially if they just met?

CO-ED IN BOSTON

**DEAR CO-ED:** When someone says he or she is a student, the question that usually follows is, "Where are you studying?" or "What's your major?" It's not, "What's your GPA?" which seems like a not-so-subtle way of asking whether you're a good student or not. His attempt to make conversation was clumsy—and because he said the question is one he asks routinely, let's hope he learns from his encounter with you and scratches it off his list of pickup lines.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have an issue I'd like your opinion on. What should the Tooth Fairy do with baby teeth after collecting them? She stopped coming to our house years ago, but the baby teeth have been dutifully saved—every one of them—in a jar where the Tooth Fairy left them.

I thought I was unique in this predicament, but found out that a sister-in-law had the same dilemma. Our kids are adults now, but I don't know what I should or could do with these little keepsakes of a beautiful boy who stole my heart the minute I looked into his eyes.

ALWAYS HIS MOM

**DEAR MOM:** Let's see ... You could have them mounted and display them on a charm bracelet. You could offer to sell them back to your son. Or, you could place them in an envelope and put them in a box with the curl from his first haircut and a pair of his baby shoes. One day I'm sure he'll be touched.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## Judge seeks more review of Chris Brown's probation

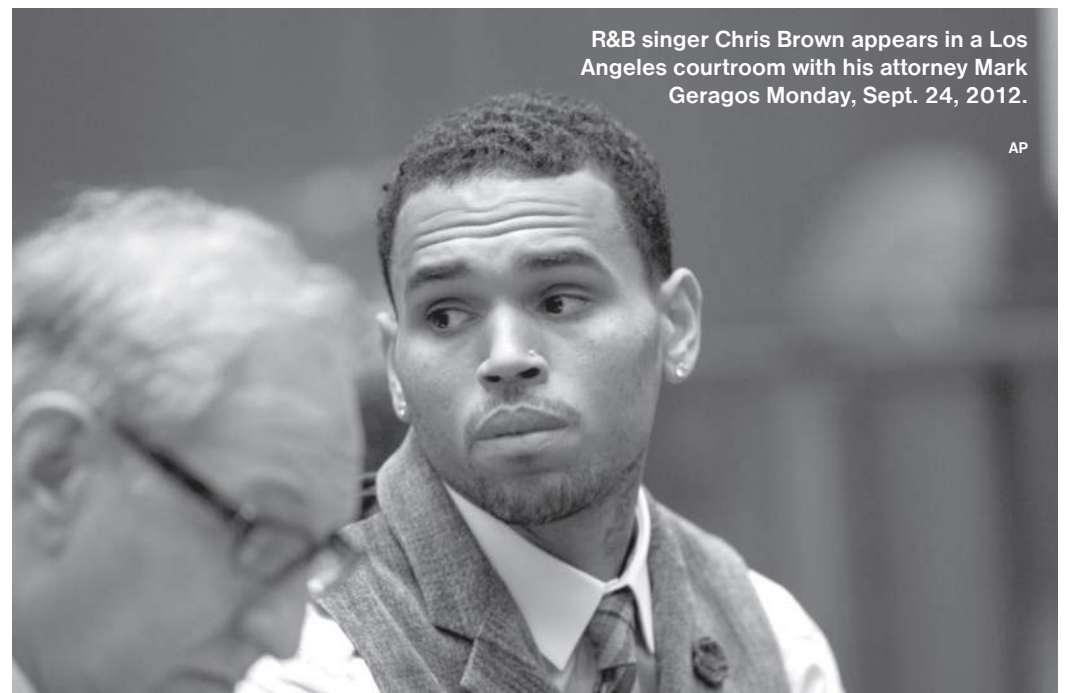
**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**A judge has ordered a further review of Chris Brown's community service and travel to determine whether the R&B singer has violated the terms of his probation for the 2009 beating of then-girlfriend Rihanna.

Brown appeared in court Monday for the first time in more than a year, and Superior Court Judge Patricia Schnegg tried to sort through Brown's probation record and the impact of a positive marijuana result during a random drug screening. Schnegg said community service logs from Brown's home state of Virginia were "somewhat cryptic" and additional review was needed to determine whether he had complied with his probation.

A spreadsheet sent by the Richmond, Va., police chief indicated Brown had completed 1,402 hours of community service, ranging from trash pickup, to washing cars, painting and tending to stables.

Brown spoke briefly during the hearing, telling Schnegg that he wasn't required to sign in when performing his service. His lawyer, Mark Geragos, welcomed the inquiry and said he expected to show that Brown had complied with all his probation terms.

The judge said Brown produced a medicinal marijuana prescription from California and that she had never ordered him not to use drugs, so the positive drug test may not have a major impact on his probation.



R&B singer Chris Brown appears in a Los Angeles courtroom with his attorney Mark Geragos Monday, Sept. 24, 2012.

AP

She warned Brown that while his marijuana use may have been legal, he needed to be mindful of his public image and his sway with young fans.

"You are not an average person who can sit in their living room and do what you want to do," Schnegg said, noting that Brown's mother was sitting in the audience of the courtroom. "You are not only in the public eye, but you are on probation."

Brown has had several high-profile incidents that have drawn negative attention, including a bottle-throwing New York City nightclub brawl involving his entourage and a group accompanying Drake. Brown received a cut on his chin, and neither entertainer was ever charged. A woman in Miami has also accused Brown

of taking her cellphone away after she tried to take pictures of him outside a South Beach nightclub, but the singer has not been charged in that incident.

Schnegg urged him to be careful going forward.

"You should be mindful of obeying all rules of the courts," Schnegg said. "A lot of people look up to you—a lot of kids. What you do and what you say impacts other people."

Brown was sentenced to five years of supervised probation after pleading guilty to felony assault for his February 2009 attack on Rihanna. Before Monday, he had received positive reports from probation officials and praise from Schnegg. The judge ordered Brown to return to court Nov. 1 for another update.

Virginia officials also reported that Brown may have traveled to Paris without permission, but Schnegg said she has approved most of the singer's travel and would have to review that claim further.

## 2 plead no contest to extorting Stevie Wonder

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Two people charged with trying to extort millions of dollars from Stevie Wonder pleaded no contest on Monday and were released after being sentenced to time-served in jail.

Alpha Lorenzo Walker and Tamara Diaz were sentenced to serve 292 days in jail and three years of probation for attempting to sell a video that purportedly portrayed Wonder in a negative light. Jail credits made the pair eligible for release Monday.

The pair was arrested in May after the Grammy-winner's attorney arranged a sting and

claimed Walker had sought up to \$5 million for the video.

Walker's attorney, Ian Wallach, said the deal was reached after prosecutors encountered trouble proving the extortion case and that the charges were eligible to be reduced to misdemeanors and expunged later if the pair comply with the terms of their release.

A judge ordered the pair to stand trial in July after a preliminary hearing in which a police detective described the video as an 80-minute rant against Wonder. Portions of it were filmed in

the former home of the singer's late mother, which is now dilapidated, and it also shows Wonder's son, whom the musician is protective of.

Wallach had maintained his client was innocent and that he had a constitutional right to make and market the video. Diaz is Walker's girlfriend and was present during a police sting that involved Wonder's attorney and led to the pair's arrest.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said both were ordered to stay away from Wonder and his associates while on probation.

## Actress Sarah Michelle Gellar gives birth to boy

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Sarah Michelle Gellar and Freddie Prinze Jr. have added a boy to their brood.

Publicist Leslie Sloane says the baby was born in Los Angeles. His name and details of the birth weren't released.

The couple also has a 3-year-old daughter named Charlotte. They celebrated their 10th wedding anni-



Gellar

versary this month.

Gellar and Prinze have co-starred in two "Scooby-Doo" films along with "I Know What You Did Last Summer."

Last year, the 35-year-old Gellar starred in the CW drama "Ringer." The 36-year-old Prinze had a role on the final season of Fox's "24."

Us Weekly first reported the birth.

## Niece of Scientology leader plans tell-all book

**NEW YORK (AP)—**A niece of Scientology leader David Miscavige is planning a tell-all memoir about the church.

Jenna Miscavige Hill has been a frequent critic of the Church of Scientology since publicly breaking with it in 2005. She has a deal with HarperCollins Publishers imprint William Morrow

for "Beyond Belief: My Secret Life inside Scientology and My Harrowing Escape."

Morrow announced Monday the book will come out in January. It says the 28-year-old Hill will reveal "strange and disturbing" details about growing up in the church and will provide a firsthand account of Scientol-

ogy's "upper ranks."

David Miscavige chairs the board that oversees the church, founded in the 1950s by science fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard.

Scientology teaches followers they're immortal spiritual beings who live on after death. Church members include Tom Cruise and John Travolta.

## Bonnie Franklin diagnosed with pancreatic cancer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)—**Bonnie Franklin, who starred in the sitcom "One Day At a Time," has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, her family said Monday.

In a statement released by CBS, the family said the 68-year-old actress is undergoing treatment and continuing her normal schedule.

Franklin, who lives in Los Angeles, and her family "remain extremely positive" and

asked that her privacy be respected.

The petite, red-headed



Franklin

actress starred as single mom Ann Romano in the hit CBS comedy "One Day At a Time," which aired from 1975 to 1984. Her co-stars included Mackenzie Phillips and Valerie Bertinelli.

On her Twitter account, Phillips sent "out love and sweet prayers" to the "incomparable Bonnie Franklin."

Franklin's recent credits include appearances on "The Young and the Restless" and "Hot in Cleveland," which reunited her with Bertinelli.

On stage, Franklin was in the original Broadway production of "Applause," for which she received a 1970 Tony Award nomination, and other plays including "Dames at Sea" and "A Thousand Clowns."

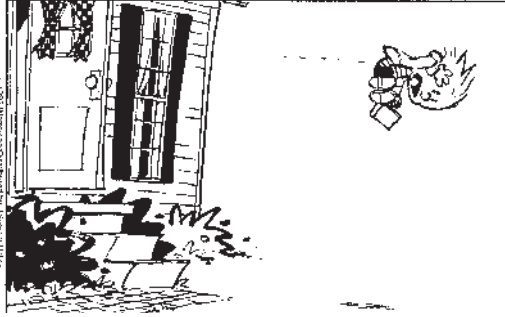
Her family said Franklin is grateful for people's support and concern as she fights cancer.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

I HATE SCHOOL! I'M NOT GOING TO SCHOOL EVER AGAIN! I REFUSE!



By Bill Waterson

I THINK MOM LETTERED IN SHOT PUT HER JUNIOR YEAR.



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

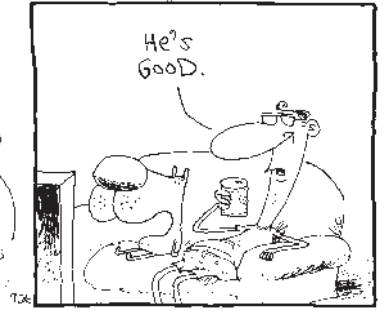
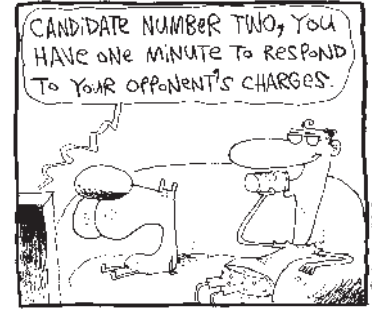


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

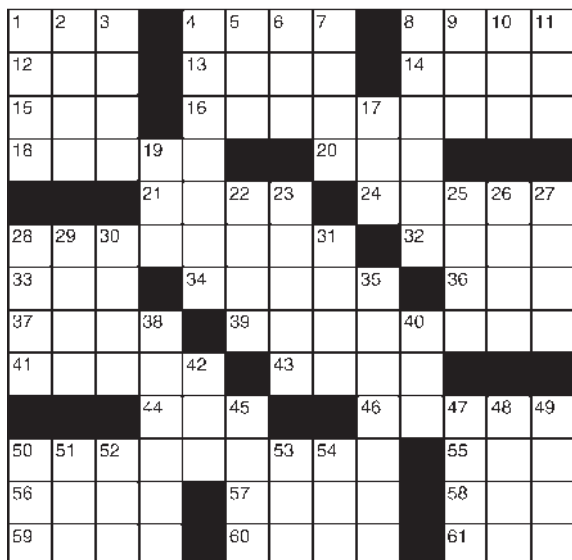
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Express  
4 Leprechauns' dances  
8 Quest  
12 Area 51  
13 Arm bone  
14 Sandwich treat  
15 Tatter  
16 "Consider it done"  
18 Pat down  
20 Charged bit  
21 Consider  
24 "Greetings, pardner"  
28 Nolan Ryan specialty  
32 Soft cheese  
33 Brewery product  
34 One's performances?  
36 401(k) alternative  
37 Peel  
39 "Don't sweat it"  
41 Trig ratio, for short  
43 "Peter Pan" dog
- DOWN**
- 44 Atmosphere  
46 Lowly soldier  
50 Super-easy  
55 Fish eggs  
56 British noble  
57 Leslie Caron role  
58 Pistol  
59 Salver  
60 Bit of plankton  
61 Conclusion  
3 Boo-Boo's mentor  
4 Promotional trips  
5 UN workers agcy.  
6 Econ. statistic  
7 Ganges garment  
8 Rub elbows  
9 Web address  
10 Born  
11 Male turkey  
17 Reaction to fireworks  
19 "Star Wars" initials  
22 Harrow rival  
23 Crenshaw, for one  
25 Legal document  
26 Tragic period  
28 DEA agent  
29 Hodgepodge  
30 Coop group  
31 Actress Downey  
35 Punch-bowl contents, maybe  
38 With all one's heart  
40 Pitch  
42 Spy org.  
45 Latvia's capital  
47 Incite  
48 Proper subject?  
49 Incline  
50 Profit  
51 Rowing need  
52 Lingerie item  
53 Zero  
54 Early bird?

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-26



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Christina Milian, 31; Serena Williams, 31; James Caviezel, 44; Olivia Newton-John, 64.

**Happy Birthday:** Past experience will help you expand your interests. Get in touch with people who have something to offer you. A change regarding a partnership will be difficult, but beneficial in the end. Networking and sharing what you have to offer will lead to greater opportunities. Attend reunions or events that will bring you in contact with old ties. Your numbers are 4, 16, 22, 28, 36, 40, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't force change; accept what's being offered. Your communication skills will help you establish a position that will bring you greater clout. Share your vision and you will attract interest in what you are doing as well as in who you are. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Sudden changes will alter the way you do things professionally. Don't trust what others do or say. Look out for your own interests and protect your position, finances and health. When one door closes, another will open. ★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Expand your interests and put your skills to the test. Set your priorities straight and don't stop until you reach your destination. Love is in the stars, but it must not throw you off your professional game plan. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Consider your options, look at what others are contributing and make a decision that will keep you out of trouble. Keeping your emo-

tions under control will be necessary, especially when dealing with children, elders or someone you don't trust. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Temper tantrums will develop if you don't compromise. A personal relationship may suffer if you use pressure to get your way. Travel plans or visiting unfamiliar places will help you broaden your perspective on a situation you face. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Try your very best. Get everything on your to-do list out of the way before you take on more commitments. A work-related event would allow you to share your plans for the future, gathering interest from those who might help you advance. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Discussing plans will motivate you to get started. Love is on the rise. Getting involved in causes you feel strongly about will allow you to engage in a friendship based on common interests. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Keeping your thoughts private will be beneficial financially and emotionally. Once you are sure you have your plans ready to launch, you will not have to worry about someone disclosing information that has the potential to stand in the way of your success. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Don't hesitate to show off what you can do. Someone will see the value you bring to the table and want to include you in something you'll find interesting and lucrative. Love is in the stars. Travel and communication are favored. ★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Communication must be well thought out and executed with precision. An unusual reaction from someone you thought you knew well will catch you off guard. Don't share information that you don't want spread around. Love is likely to be costly. ★★



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Make personal changes that will help to simplify your life and bring in more cash. Cutting your overhead or sharing your expenses with someone will help you get a better handle on your situation. A love relationship will enhance your life. ★★



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Emotional stress and deception can be expected. Don't share secret information. Concentrate on learning as much as you can about a situation that could end up causing you a problem. Keep your money and possessions in a safe place. ★★

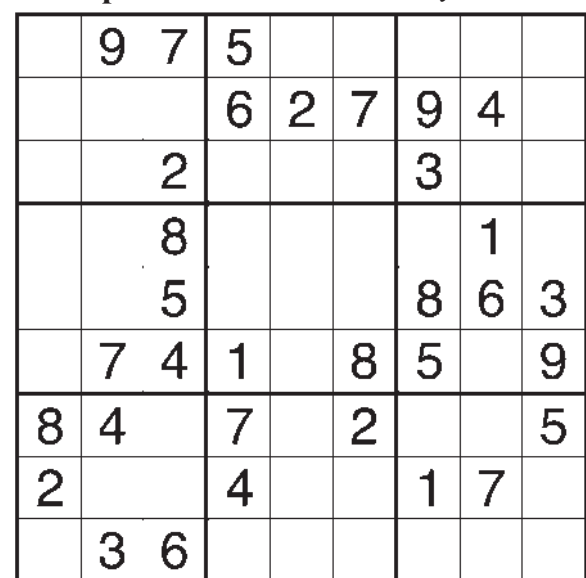
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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

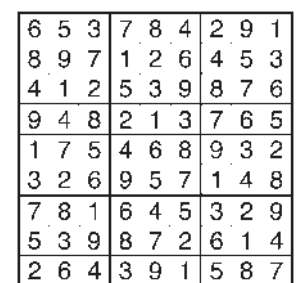


Difficulty Level ★★

9/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT

Solution: 7 letters



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9/26  
Areas, Bathrooms, Berth, Bird, Board, Boat, Breeze, Bugs, Cabins, Calm, Cockpit, Community, Damp, Deep, Designs, Docked, Doors, Downsizing, Dwelling, Fish, Floats, Galley, Head, Helm, House, Insurance, Jacket, Kids, Lake, Life, Living, Motor, Peace, Rain, Rivers, Rocking, Roomy, Salon, Size, Sound, Storms, Sunset, Tide, Tools, Views, Water, Waves, Weather  
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# Seahawks stun Packers on final play, 14-12



**SEATTLE (AP)**—In a bizarre ending that capped a brutal week-end for replacement officials, the Seattle Seahawks somehow beat the Green Bay Packers 14-12 on Monday night in a game that's certain to re-ignite frustrations over the locked-out refs.

Russell Wilson threw a disputed 24-yard touchdown pass to Golden Tate on the final play of the game, a game that finally ended 10 minutes later when both teams were brought back on the field for the extra point.

Wilson scrambled from the pocket and threw to the corner of the end zone as the clock expired. Tate shoved Green Bay's Sam Shields out of the way, then wrestled with M.D. Jennings for possession. It was ruled on the field as a touchdown and after a lengthy review, referee Wayne Elliott came out from under the hood and announced "the ruling on the field stands" and CenturyLink Field erupted in celebration.

It was nearly 10 minutes before the teams were brought back for the extra point.

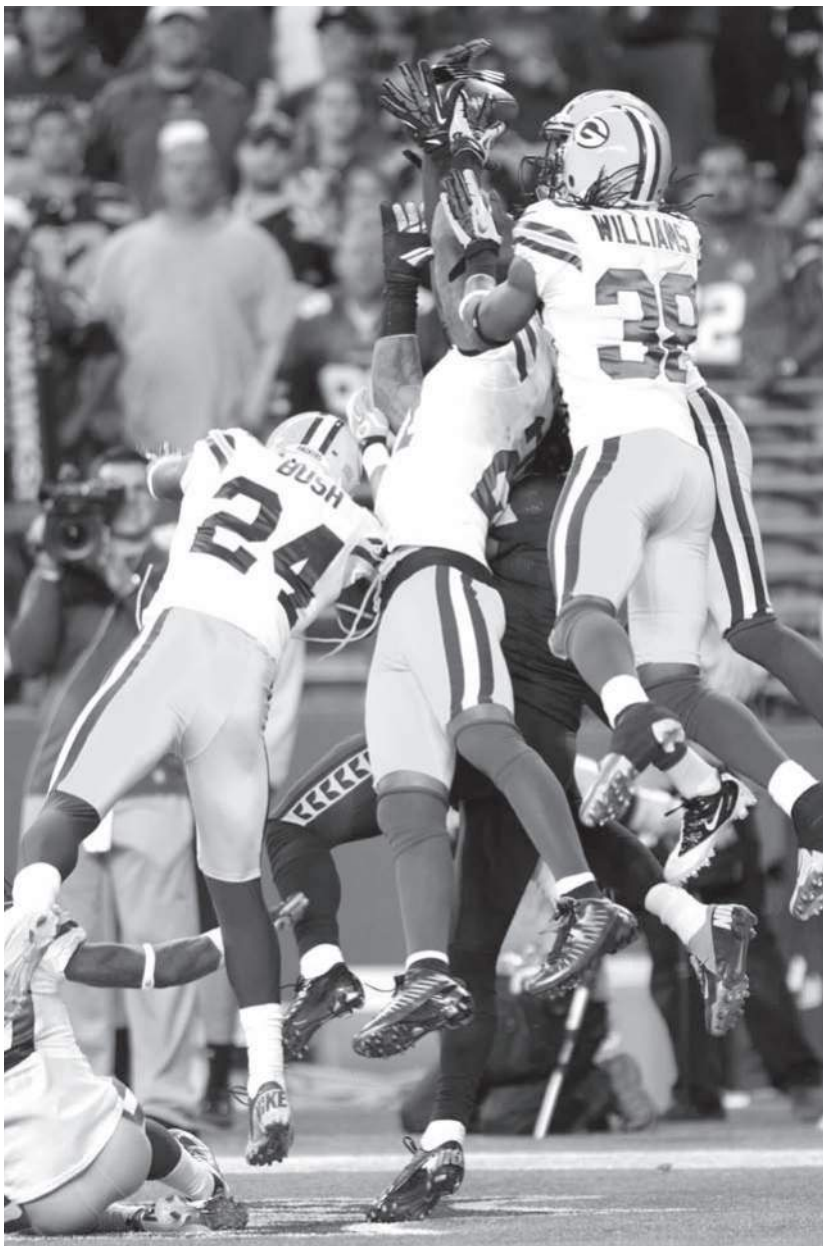
The final decision is only going to fuel debate about the replacement officials coming off a week-end filled with disputed calls.

"Don't ask me a question about the officials," Green Bay coach Mike McCarthy said. "I've never seen anything like that in all my years in football."

"I know it's been a wild weekend in the NFL and I guess we're part of it now."

And the last game of the weekend will debated more than any other.

Seattle (2-1) won its second



Seattle Seahawks wide receiver Golden Tate, obscured, comes down with the ball in the end zone for a touchdown as Green Bay Packers' Jarrett Bush (24) and Tramon Williams (38) defend in the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, in Seattle.

straight, while Green Bay (1-2) saw its streak of wins in six straight road openers snapped.

Wilson's heave came at the end of a final frantic drive after Seattle had previously missed on a fourth-down attempt from the Green Bay 7 with 2 minutes left. The turnover on downs appeared to end Seattle's hopes and cap an impressive second-half comeback by the Packers and Aaron Rodgers, who was sacked eight times—all in the first half.

Green Bay averted disaster when John Kuhn fumbled on the Packers first play following the change of possession but center Jeff Saturday recovered. The Seahawks held and forced Green Bay to punt from the 4 with 57 seconds left. The 41-yard punt set Seattle up at the Green Bay 46 with 46 seconds remaining.

Wilson hit Sidney Rice for 22 yards on a slant then went for Tate in the end zone but the ball was batted away with 18 seconds left. He threw over the head of Evan Moore on second down leaving 12 seconds remaining and missed Tate again at the 5.

Wilson took the final snap with 8 seconds remaining. He appeared to be looking for Rice on the right side of the end zone, but rolled left and threw for Tate, who was in a crowd of three Packers defenders. His shove of Shields was obvious and it was never clear who had possession between Tate and Jennings.

Seattle instantly celebrated while the Packers argued with anyone in a striped shirt. Both teams were eventually shoved to the sidelines as Tate stomped through the end zone in celebration. Following the review, Elliott's announcement sent

the stadium into delirium and even more confusion ensued until the teams finally returned to the field for the extra point.

"From what I understood from the officials it was a simultaneous catch. Tie goes to the runner. Good call," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

Rodgers had quite a different opinion.

"It was awful. Just look at the replay. And then the fact that it was reviewed, it was awful," he said. "That's all I'm going to say about it."

"We shouldn't have been in that position."

It was Tate's second touchdown of the game after catching a 41-yard TD in the second quarter to give Seattle a 7-0 lead. He finished with three catches for 68 yards, while Wilson was 10 of 21 for 130 yards.

The Packers' frustration was almost instant. Guard T.J. Lang was even more emphatic, tweeting that the Packers were robbed "by the refs. Thanks NFL."

Green Bay shook off a disastrous first half where Rodgers was sacked eight times and completely controlled possession in the final 30 minutes. Green Bay ran 41 offensive plays in the second half, got field goals of 29 and 40 yards from Mason Crosby and Cedric Benson's 1-yard TD run with 8:44 left to take a 12-7 lead.

Others spoke their mind by tweeting.

Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman tweeted "These games are a joke," while NBA MVP LeBron James tweeted "I simply just LOVE the NFL to much to see these mistakes. I'm sick like I just played for the Packers"

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The furor over the work of replacement officials reached a fevered pitch during Week 3 in the NFL, especially Monday night when Seattle beat Green Bay on a desperation pass that many thought was an interception.

Seahawks receiver Golden Tate was awarded a touchdown on the final play after a scrum on the ground in the end zone. Packers safety M.D. Jennings appeared to catch the ball against his body, with Tate getting his arm around the ball.

After a few seconds, one official indicated a stoppage of play, but another signaled touchdown for a conclusion former NFL coach Jon Gruden, working the game on TV, called "tragic" and "comical."

Tate clearly shoved cornerback Sam Shields to the ground on the play, but as Gruden noted, offensive pass interference almost never is called on desperation passes.

"Very hard to swallow," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "I have never seen anything like that in my time in football."

One day after New England coach Bill Belichick was confused about a decisive field goal he thought was off-target and Detroit's Jim Schwartz couldn't understand a 27-yard penalty walk-off for unnecessary roughness, things had gotten even more chaotic.

"These games are a joke," Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman tweeted.

McCarthy was measured in his postgame remarks.

## Replacement ref furor grows after wild Seattle win

"Most unusual football game I have been a part of," he said. "I know it's been a wild weekend in the NFL and I guess we are part of it."

Packers guard T.J. Lang was even more emphatic, tweeting that the Packers were robbed "by the refs. Thanks NFL."

In Sunday night's Ravens-Patriots game, shoving matches followed even insignificant plays. One TV analyst called it the substitute-teacher syndrome: See how much you can get away with before the real thing returns.

"Nature says for us that we're going to go out there and push the limit regardless," Vikings linebacker Chad Greenway said. "If they're calling a game tight, if they're calling a game loose, it's going to be pushed to the limit. You are pushing it to the brink. If things are going to be called easier, and in some situations I feel like they've been less lenient, too, you've just got to play and see how (it's being called)."

If you can figure it out.

Broncos coach John Fox was fined \$30,000 Monday and defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio \$25,000 for verbal abuse of the officials during a Monday night game against Atlanta on Sept. 17.

More fines are likely for Belichick and Redskins offensive coordinator Kyle Shanahan, and perhaps for others.

Fox and Del Rio were hit for their

sideline histrionics, particularly when Fox was told he couldn't challenge a call of 12 men on the field—he was correct that he could challenge, although replays showed the Broncos were guilty.

Before grabbing the arm of an official, Belichick wanted to know why Justin Tucker's field goal was called good in Baltimore's 31-30 victory Sunday night. He couldn't tell from his angle on the sideline, he said.

"So when the game was over, I went out and I was really looking for an explanation from the officials as to whether the play was under review," he said, "and I did try to get the official's attention as he was coming off the field to ask that, but I really wasn't able to do that."

Most confusing was the mark-off for a Lions penalty in overtime at Tennessee. Officials wound up penalizing Detroit from its 44-yard line rather than from the original line of scrimmage, the Titans 44.

Soon after, Rob Bironas kicked a go-ahead field goal.

Schwartz noted that the alternate official who helps the replacements with administrating penalties was on the Detroit sideline.

"We said, 'You're enforcing it from the wrong spot.' He was adamant that they weren't doing so," Schwartz said. "At that point, we just needed to play."

They didn't play well enough to

avoid losing 44-41, and Titans coach Mike Munchak wasn't apologizing for how his team won.

"I don't feel any guilt," Munchak said. "For us, really the obvious answer is there's nothing we can do about who's officiating games. It's the same for everybody, so go out and don't get caught up in all that."

The league and the officials' union met Sunday without reaching any agreement on ending the lockout that began in June. The players' union also called on the 32 team owners to end the lockout because it is compromising the integrity of the game.

While most of the coaches are being careful what they say about the replacements, the players and broadcasters are less inhibited.

"Unfortunately, I feel like that it's like changing an intersection from a stop sign to a red light," Browns kicker Phil Dawson said. "You have to have so many car wrecks before they deem that intersection to be dangerous enough—and we're heading that way. Someone's going to lose a game, if it hasn't already happened, to get both sides to a pressure point to get a deal done. It's sad."

Certainly not holding back on the criticism are some of the NFL's broadcast partners. Analyst Cris Collinsworth was forthright in his evaluation of the officiating problems Sunday night, as were Mike Tirico and Jon Gruden during last Monday

night's flag-fest in Atlanta.

"We don't want to talk about the officials, trust us," ESPN's Tirico said. "But it's affecting the game. When we meet with teams and coordinators, frustration boils out into limited on-the-record statements. Off the record, what guys are saying—it's a nightmare. It is impacting the game."

"It hasn't burned a team to cost them a playoff spot yet. But you should go back and watch the film. There are so many little things that players are getting away with that is absolutely impacting the game to the detriment of the product."

Yet some players aren't completely down on the performances of the replacements.

Patriots receiver Deion Branch noted all the controversy about officiating throughout the league.

"But I think the bigger picture is that we've all got to understand that, hey, they're making those calls on both sides of the ball," Branch said. "Us as players, we need to remove ourselves from what the refs are doing and just go out and play our game."

Rams defensive end Chris Long offered, apparently with no sarcasm, that the game "hasn't changed at all with the replacement officials because officials don't care about defensive linemen, replacement or first-tier officials."

Then he admitted taking the regular officials for granted.

"The NFL could really use them back," Long said.



# Hendriks gives up 4 homers; Yankees top Twins



**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Andy Pettitte turned in another ageless

performance by pitching six scoreless innings and the New York Yankees hit four home runs to beat the Minnesota Twins 6-3 Monday night and extend their AL East lead.

The Yankees took a 1 1/2-game edge over Baltimore, which split a doubleheader with Toronto. This is the first time since Sept. 2 their margin has been more than one game.

Curtis Granderson hit his 40th home run and Nick Swisher, Raul Ibanez and Eric Chavez also homered as New York won for the 10th time in 12 games.

Pettitte (5-3) hasn't given up a run in 11 innings since rejoining the rotation last week.

Swisher's two-out, two-run shot in the first inning off Liam Hendriks (1-8) made it 3-0.

## Orioles 4, Blue Jays 1, 1st game Blue Jays 9, Orioles 5, 2nd game

In Baltimore, J.P. Arencibia broke open a tight game with a seventh-inning grand slam, and the Toronto Blue Jays beat Baltimore to earn a doubleheader split and drop the Orioles 1 1/2 games out of first place in the AL East.

In the opener, Adam Jones went 4 for 4 with a homer to lead Baltimore. But the Orioles lost a half-game in the standings to the New York Yankees, who won 6-3 at Minnesota.

Arencibia, who came into the game mired in a 2-for-36 slump, had three hits and five RBIs. Edwin Encarnacion hit his 41st home run as Toronto ended a seven-game skid.

Ricky Romero (9-14) allowed four runs, eight hits and four walks in five-plus innings, yet stopped a 13-game losing streak over 15 starts since June 22.

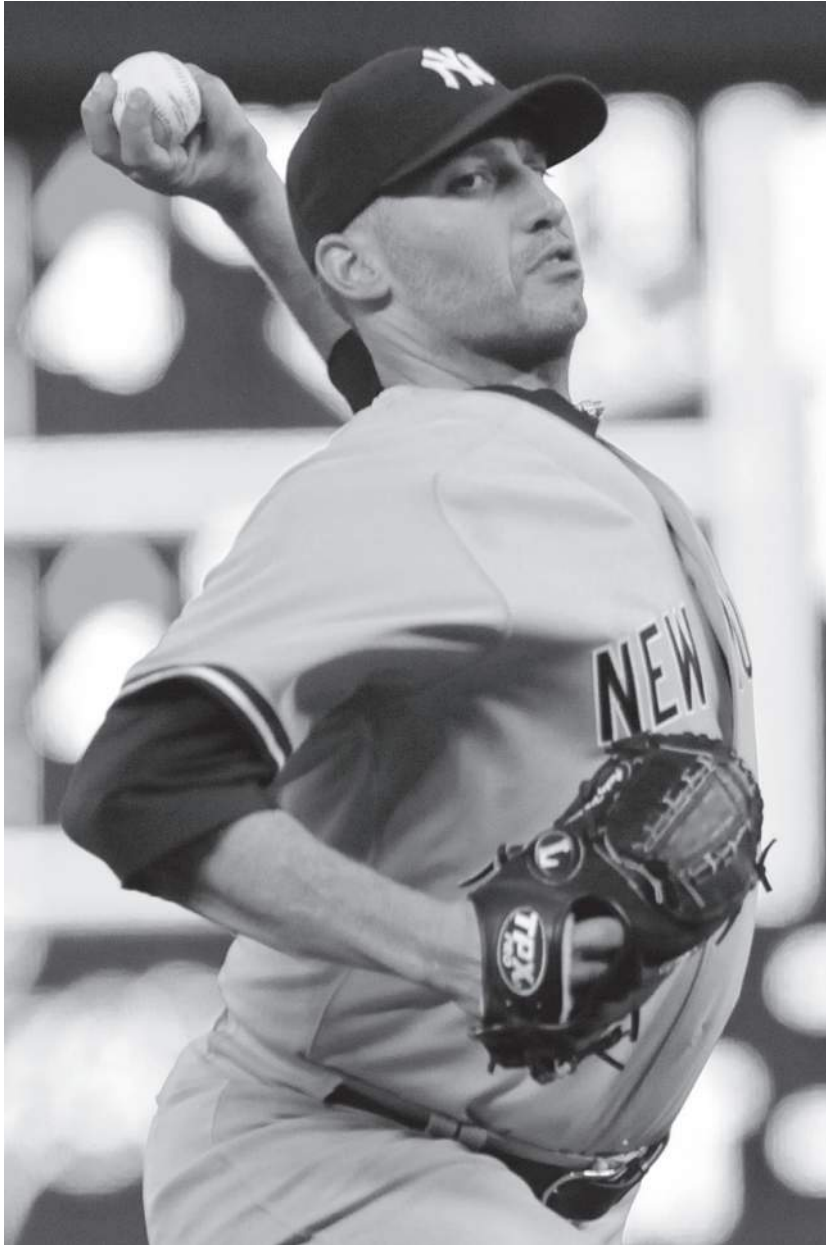
Wei-Yin Chen (12-10) took the loss.

In the first game, rookie Steve Johnson (4-0) allowed three hits over five shut-out innings to lower his ERA to 1.62. Jim Johnson, the fifth Baltimore pitcher, worked the ninth for his major league-best 48th save in 51 opportunities.

Henderson Alvarez (9-14) took the loss.

## Rangers 5, Athletics 4

In Arlington, Texas, Adrian Beltre singled home the winning run in the ninth inning and the Texas Rangers rallied past Oakland, stretching their AL West



New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte throws against the Minnesota Twins in the sixth inning of a baseball game, Monday, Sept. 24, 2012, in Minneapolis. AP

lead over the Athletics to five games with nine to play.

The Athletics' lead for the second AL wild-card slot was cut to two games over the idle Los Angeles Angels. Oakland has lost six of eight.

Beltre, whose 35th homer tied the score in the seventh, grounded a sharp single through the middle of the infield off Tyson Ross (2-11) in the ninth, bringing home pinch-runner Craig Gentry.

The Rangers got the inning started with consecutive singles by Mitch Moreland and Ian Kinsler before Elvis Andrus' sacrifice bunt. Josh Hamilton, who had already hit his major league-best 43rd homer after missing the previous five games with a cornea issue, was intentionally walked

to load the bases.

Joe Nathan (3-4) got the win.

## White Sox 5, Indians 4

In Chicago, Adam Dunn homered twice, including a clutch three-run shot in the eighth inning, and the Chicago White Sox beat Cleveland to maintain their one-game lead in the AL Central.

Chicago snapped a five-game losing streak and stayed in front of second-place Detroit, which beat Kansas City 6-2. The top two teams in the division each have nine games left.

Dunn drove an 0-2 pitch from Vinny Pestano (3-3) over the wall in right-center with runners on the corners and two outs, putting Chicago ahead 5-3. Kevin Youkilis kept the inning alive with an infield single before Dunn con-

nected for his 41st homer of the season. Dunn also went deep in the sixth.

Brett Myers (3-3) pitched the eighth for the win. Donnie Veal converted his first save opportunity of the season.

## Tigers 6, Royals 2

In Detroit, Justin Verlander breezed through eight innings and Prince Fielder hit a solo homer, helping the Detroit Tigers steady themselves with a win over Kansas City.

The Tigers remained one game behind Chicago in the AL Central.

Verlander (16-8) had little trouble with the Royals, who knocked him around for eight runs and 12 hits last month. He allowed two runs and nine hits this time, striking out eight without a walk.

Luke Hochevar (8-15) yielded six runs and 12 hits in 7 1-3 innings.

## Nationals 12, Brewers

In Washington, Jason Werth wound up with a two-out, two-run double when Brewers center fielder Carlos Gomez lost a ball in the sun to spark a six-run fourth inning Monday, and Washington beat Milwaukee to cut its magic number to five for winning the NL East.

Jordan Zimmermann (12-8) allowed one run and four hits in 6 2-3 innings, while delivering two hits and driving in a run as a batter. Ryan Zimmerman produced three hits and four RBIs for the Nationals, who improved to a major league-best 93-60 and increased their division lead over Atlanta to five games with nine to play.

Marco Estrada (4-7) lasted only four innings for the Brewers, who dropped 3 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild card. He allowed seven runs—six earned—and eight hits.

## Mets 6, Pirates 2

In New York, Ike Davis connected twice and reached a career-high 30 homers, Jenry Mejia pitched five effective innings for his first major league win and New York won its fourth straight.

Davis had a career-best five RBIs and Mejia (1-1) allowed four singles and two walks. The right-hander struck out four and only his last out was made by an outfielder.

The Pirates lost for the 31st time in 43 games since improving to a season-high 16 games above .500 (63-47) on Aug. 8. They fell 7 1/2 games back in the wild-card race with several teams ahead of them and must win six of their last nine to avoid a 20th consecutive losing season.

Pittsburgh's Andrew McCutchen went 1 for 3 with a triple to keep his batting average at .336—behind only Melky Cabrera, who is at .346 but has removed himself from consideration for the title.

Davis' homer to left-center off Kyle McPherson (0-2) in the fourth came after David Wright walked. Davis hit a three-run shot off Jeff Karstens in the fifth to make it 6-0, a batter after Wright had an RBI single.

## Cardinals 6, Astros 1

In Houston, Lance Lynn pitched seven innings to earn his 17th win, rookie Pete Kozma hit a two-run homer and the St. Louis Cardinals strengthened their grip on a playoff spot.

Yadier Molina added a solo shot as the Cardinals moved 3 1/2 games in front of Milwaukee and Los Angeles for the second NL wild card.

Lynn (17-7) struck out nine and yielded one run on five hits. The right-hander is 4-0 with a sparkling 0.89 ERA in his last four outings, including a relief appearance against Milwaukee on Sept. 9.

Kozma extended St. Louis' lead to 3-0 with his second major league homer in the second, a day after hitting his first one. Molina hit his 21st homer of the season to make it 4-1 in the fourth.

Houston starter Fernando Abad (0-6) pitched 1 2-3 innings before leaving with a strained right oblique. He walked one and allowed a run. He was replaced by Fernando Rodriguez, who was charged with three runs and seven hits in a career-long 4 1-3 innings.

## Rockies 4, Diamondbacks 2

In Denver, Tyler Chatwood pitched effectively into the sixth inning and Andrew Brown homered for Colorado.

Jason Kubel homered for the Diamondbacks, who have slim hopes of a late-season playoff push. Arizona fell 5 1/2 games behind St. Louis with nine remaining in the race for the second NL wild card.

Tyler Colvin and Charlie Blackmon had two hits each for Colorado. Rafael Betancourt worked the ninth for his 30th save.

For one night, at least, the Rockies (59-94) avoided tying the franchise record for losses in a season with a solid performance from Chatwood. Colorado's pitchers had allowed 33 runs on 48 hits through the first three games of this series before holding the Diamondbacks to five hits Monday.



**SEATTLE (AP)**—A wealthy hedge-fund manager won approval Monday for his plan to bring professional men's basketball and hockey back to Seattle, with initially skeptical City Council members agreeing to put up \$200 million for a new arena after he promised to personally guarantee the city's debt.

Council members voted 6-2 to approve Chris Hansen's plan for a \$490 million arena near the Seahawks and Mariners stadiums south of downtown.

"I was a skeptic when this came forward because I was worried about our taxpayers," said Councilwoman Sally Bagshaw. "The fact that we have a personal guarantee from Mr. Hansen ... that makes a big difference.

"At the end, we're going to have some-

# Seattle City Council approves new arena

thing the city is proud of."

Seattle hasn't had an NBA team since 2008, when the SuperSonics moved to Oklahoma City and became the Thunder, devastating their fans here. It's been quite a bit longer since Seattle had major-league hockey: The Metropolitans, who won the Stanley Cup in 1917, disbanded in 1924.

The Edmonton Oilers is one NHL team already discussing possible relocation to Seattle after plans for a proposed \$475 million arena in Edmonton were thrown into doubt earlier this month.

Though the franchise said it still hopes to reach a deal with Edmonton on a new arena, owner Daryl Katz, team president Patrick LaForge and Kevin Lowe, president of hockey op-

erations, were in Seattle for meetings Monday about a possible relocation.

The Oilers said in a statement that the team is listening to proposals from a number of potential NHL markets.

Hansen, of San Francisco, is a Seattle native, an early investor in Facebook and a big Sonics fan who approached Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn last year in hopes of building a new arena to attract an NBA team and hopefully an NHL team as well. KeyArena, where the Sonics played, is considered outdated and financially unviable. The \$200 million in public financing would be repaid by arena-related taxes.

The deal Hansen worked out with the mayor's office met with resistance

at City Council, where members worried about the effect of more traffic in what is a crucial shipping corridor, thanks to the nearby Port of Seattle, and about creating competition for the publicly owned KeyArena, which turned a profit last year.

But Hansen made a number of concessions and won over a majority. In addition to personally guaranteeing the debt payments, he agreed to kick in more money for transportation improvements and \$7 million for KeyArena, and he agreed to buy the new arena back from the city for \$200 million at the end of the 30-year use agreement if that's what the city wants.

He also agreed to be independently audited to assure that he's worth at least

\$300 million.

"I want to thank all of Seattle's elected officials and their staffs for their willingness to roll up their sleeves and work with us to get us to this point," Hansen said in a written statement. "Today's vote demonstrates that by listening to each other and working hard to address the concerns of all stakeholders that we can make the arena a reality and bring professional basketball and hockey back to Seattle."

The King County Council already approved the original deal but needs to approve the revised version.

Under the deal, the arena proposal will undergo an environmental review that could take a year. The review will look at whether other sites, including Seattle Center, where KeyArena is, should be considered.



# Freestyl secures playoff seat

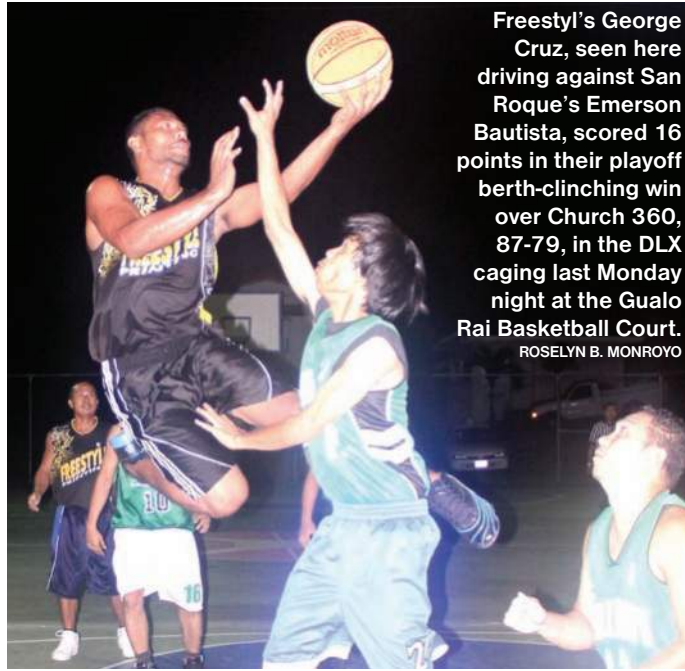
By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Only one playoff berth is left in Pool A of the DLX/Gualo Rai Invitational Basketball League after Freestyl notched the third slot, following a crucial 87-79 victory over Church 360 last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Freestyl (5-3) joins Anjie's Boys (6-1) and LD Prime (5-2) in the playoffs, while QQ Rent A Car (3-3), Gualo Rai (3-3), Looban (3-4), and Church 360 (3-4) will battle for the remaining slot to the next round. San Roque (1-5) and Yuchiyo Printing (1-5) are out of the running.

Freestyl and Church 360 resumed action in the DLX caging, which had its Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday games last week called off due to rain. Freestyl turned out to be the more prepared team after the weeklong layoff, controlling the match from the opening tip until the buzzer to clinch a playoff berth.

Dennis Morales, Jojo Detera, George Cruz, and Donovan Brennan joined forces in lifting Freestyl to the win, making



Freestyl's George Cruz, seen here driving against San Roque's Emerson Bautista, scored 16 points in their playoff berth-clinching win over Church 360, 87-79, in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. ROSELYN B. MONROYO

up for the absence of their top scorer Clayton Kenty. Morales led Freestyl with his 22 points, Detera added 18, and Cruz and Brennan chipped in 16 and 14, respectively.

While Freestyl's points were evenly distributed, Church 360 relied heavily on Aaron Wood and clearly missed the presence of Wowie Abuel and Josh Luttrell. Wood had a game-high 28 points, while Preston Basa was the only other Church 360 play-

er to score in twin digits with his 13 markers.

Basa fired Church 360's first 4 points, but went cold in the remaining minutes of the opening canto, while Morales made 6 of their last 8 points in the first period for Freestyl's 18-16 lead.

Detera took over from Morales in the second frame with the former nailing 10 markers, while Church 360 stayed in the game behind its three triples and fell behind by only 4 at the break, 35-39.

## UCC

From Page 24

ished with 10 to put UCC on top at halftime, 31-24.

After stunning UCC in the opening frame, Ichiban collapsed in the second canto with Lizama held to 2 points and Kimberly Ocampo posting the 4 other markers.

A shutout in the third period doomed Ichiban, while Abrams and Ito continued to lead UCC's offense, combining for 15 of their team's 19 points in that frame. By the end of the third, UCC was way ahead, 50-24, and the final buzzer was all it needed to formally book the first finals ticket.

Kiss My Pass clinched the

second finals berth after capitalizing on a depleted IDK Who crew. Kiss My Pass had nine players suiting up in the semis and eight of them made it to the scoreboard, while only six players were available for IDK Who.

Despite its shorthanded roster, IDK Who managed to keep within striking distance of Kiss My Pass in the first period. Kiss My Pass led by only three after the first 10 minutes of play, 13-10. Jeralyn Castillo had 7 points for Kiss My Pass in the opening canto, while Negahr Rastguiry tallied 6 for IDK Who.

In the second canto, Kiss My Pass stepped on the pedal, while IDK Who ran out of offensive option with only Irish Pagarao making all of her

team's 4 points in that period. Castillo outgunned the entire IDK Who Team, as she added 9 more points, giving Kiss My Pass a big 32-14 halftime advantage.

IDK Who failed to make a rally in the second half, as Pagarao's cry for help fell on deaf ears, while Kiss My Pass continued to draw contributions from its players.

Kiss My Pass' semis victory over IDK Who was sort of an upset, as the former was ranked third in the playoffs after completing the regular season with an even 3-3 mark. IDK was seeded second with its 4-2 card, missing the No. 1 ranking and an easier semis assignment (against winless Ichiban) after bowing to UCC

some adjustments at the break and uncorked a 20-point surge in the third quarter and turned the tables on its opponents.

Ankie Manalili and Kobe Mendoza delivered 6 points apiece in what went down as the defining moment of the match, and Hi-5 was abruptly limited to just 4 checks in the period, which enabled Proa to take a 35-24 advantage heading into the final period.

In the end, Proa turned up the heat even more in the fourth quarter to erase any shred of doubt of an upset.

Hi-5's offense dwindled as the game progressed and only managed 6 points in the payoff period.

Proa's Mendoza led the defending champions with 10 points, while Hi-5's Cruz topped the field with 12.

In the second match, Rollers 2's Mike Cenir paced the

group with 6 points in the first quarter as they built a comfortable 18-7 lead.

Melvin Deocares picked up where he left off with a half dozen markers of his own as both teams traded points in the second quarter.

Rollers 2 maintained control, 30-17, at the half and thought they were out of the woods, but the CNMI Girls Junior National Team was not ready to throw in the towel.

Friendly Pena scrambled for 8 points in the girls' third quarter rally that put them within one-possession, 42-45, with 10 hot minutes left in regulation.

Rollers 2 would regroup and put out the fire in the end, however, and held its rivals to just 7 points at crunch time as they trotted away with the win.

Rollers 2's John Darag, Michael Espinosa, and Jun Fidelino all stepped up in the fourth

quarter to help secure the win. Espinosa carried the crew with a game-high 19 points, while the CNMI Girls' Rachel Abrams turned in 15 in defeat.

However, Freestyl started pulling away in the third, as Morales heated up anew and drained 11 points to give his team a double-digit advantage, 63-53. Church 360 faced a 10-point deficit in third, as only Wood scored more than one field goal for the team.

Wood continued carrying Church 360 on his shoulder in the fourth, but his one-man show was no match to Freestyl's balance attack. Six different Freestyl players lit up the scoreboard in the final canto.

Meanwhile, KFC/Taco Bell zeroed in on a playoff seat in Pool B after winning over Mawati (1-6) via forfeiture. The defending champion finished the round-robin elimination with a 5-3 record and is currently in third place behind Brgy. San Antonio (4-1) and Zhaila's All Starz (5-2). MBI (4-2), Blue Haus (2-2), Wushin Express (2-3), and Playboy (2-3) are still in playoff hunt.

**Freestyl 87** – Morales 22, Detera 18, G. Cruz 16, Brennan 14, R. Cruz 7, Yalung 4, Alano 2, Alejandro 2.

**Church 360 79** – Wood 28, Basa 13, Buenabajo 8, M. Puno 8, Diaz 4, Buniag 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-16, 39, 35, 63-53, 87-79.

in a double overtime game last Friday, 71-72.

## First Game

**UCC 62** – Ito 19, Abrams 14, Lebría 14, Alegre 10, Williams 5.

**Ichiban 32** – Lizama 13, Pena 10, V. Bartolo 4, Ocampo 4, Gatchalian 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 10-18, 32-24, 50-24, 62-32.

## Second Game

**Kiss My Pass 55** – Jeralyn Castillo 17, Lizardo 6, Jeraldine Castillo 6, Vargas 4, Ito 4m Mendoza 4, Pablo 2, Garon 2.

**IDK Who 38** – Pagarao 15, Iriarte 9, Diaz 6, Rastguiry 6, Padilla 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-10, 32-14, 42-27, 55-38.

quarter to help secure the win.

Espinosa carried the crew with a game-high 19 points, while the CNMI Girls' Rachel Abrams turned in 15 in defeat.

## Second Game

**Madson Consulting Proa 47** – Deleon 10, Mendoza 8, Wanket 8, Manalili 6, Javier 5, Amog 4, Ogasawara 4, Feria 1.

**Hi-5 31** – Cruz 12, Francisco 7, Sebanan 5, Mercene 3, Wong 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 6-10, 15-20, 35-24, 47-31.

## Third Game

**Rollers 2 67** – Espinosa 19, Darag 10, Fidelino 8, Adama 8, Cenir 6, Deocares 6, Kwon 4, Ellama 2, Bucayo 2.

**CNMI Girls Jr. National 49** – Abrams 15, Williams 11, Pena 11, Ito 8, Samson 2, Alegre 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 18-7, 30-19, 45-42, 67-49.

## SOCCER

From Page 24

Kim Jeong Hwan Kim, Thomas Lee, Daniel Lim, and Glenn and Sean Perez. Helping out Tan in handing the certificates of completion were NMIFA technical director Johann Noetzel, NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, and NMIFA Youth Committee chair Vickie Izuka.

Most of the participants in the basic referee course were in the U18 age group. They are playing in NMIFA's youth leagues and are expected to officiate games in the U6, U10, and U12 divisions or the association's non-competitive leagues.

The basic referee course was conducted in a four-part series with the first two held on Aug. 16 and 18 and the last on Aug. 24 and 25. The course was divided into two parts with the classroom session held at the NMIFA office at the TSL Plaza in Garapan and the practical part at the

Oleai Sports Complex Field. NMIFA Referee Committee, led by Catherine Perry, conducted the course.

NMIFA also had a basic assistant referee course with five individuals completing the Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 training. Brothers Joel and Mason Fruit got their certificates of completion last Sunday and were joined by fellow graduates Thomas Lee, Jireh Yobech, and Isaac Anderson.

The recent course NMIFA conducted was the grassroots coaching course on Sept. 20 and 11 individuals completed the training and received certificates in last weekend's presentation. The list includes Leslie Alcantara, Albert Bergancia, Zeny Borja, Cris Bucalig, Ladyvir Canape, Sanjay Dangol, Kenneth Domingo, Rachel Masga, Marc Gerald Mora, Melanie Rabago, and Jaime Saiki.

NMIFA has been conducting a series of courses of referees and coaches to strengthen the soccer program in the CNMI.

## ORIOLES

From Page 24

the field.

The match will resume tomorrow on Tan Ko Field, after which the same competing squads will face off again in their originally scheduled pairing.

An updated game schedule is expected to be released this week and details are forthcoming.

## Reds 5, Rockies 3

The Rockies' Ricardo Dela Cruz and Cedric Ada scored off a plethora of errors in the second inning and Leroy Regis made it 3-0 in their favor in the bottom of the fourth thanks to some more extra throws around the diamond, but the Reds jumped on top of Rockies reliever Jose Lizama in the sixth inning and pulled within a run.

Ian Rogolifoi and Lancaster Secharmidal started the hunt with a pair of singles and made it home off a pitch in the dirt and an RBI base smash by Khobby Kaipat.

Reds reliever Secharmidal settled in after entering at the start of the fifth inning and held the door open for a comeback.

Rockies' Ray Tenorio was tapped to close the top of the seventh inning, but was lit up by the Reds' top of the lineup.

Peter Lieto bashed a one-out single and scored off a passed ball, while Davin Ada hammered a double and was escorted home from a triple by Rogolifoi who made the last 90 feet off a costly outfield error.

Secharmidal returned to the rubber to secure the save and went right through the Rockies' top of the order 1-2-3.

He gave up zero earned runs in the clutch off one hit with six strikeouts and batted 2-for-4 at the plate.

Other notables include Reds'

Rogolifoi who batted 3-for-4 with an RBI and two runs and Lieto who swung 2-for-2 with a run and a base on balls

## Orioles 5, Reds 1

The Orioles took advantage of some early blunders by the Reds in the first inning and assumed an early 3-0 lead.

Frankie Camacho led off the bottom of the frame with a walk, Jun Rabauliman cracked a one-out single, and Poland Masaharu came next and hustled out an error. All three scored off extra throws.

The Reds managed to hold off the O's 1-2-3 to close the second inning, but its infield jitters returned in the third, enabling the flock to move around another couple of runs.

Orioles' Rabauliman busted a one-out double and Masaharu followed with a base knock and both made it home off errors.

By this point in the match, two Orioles batters kept their turn at the plate alive thanks to a couple of dropped third strikes.

The Reds managed to work around a run in the top of the fourth inning and vastly stiffened up its defense in the second half of the game, but struggled at the plate against the Orioles trio of Jake Santos, Mike Muna, and Camacho.

Reds' Lieto showed his brass by leading off the fourth with a single and scoring off a passed ball before Orioles' Muna dialed up a pair of strikeouts to close the inning. The Reds stranded two runners in scoring position in what turned out to be its best chance to mount a comeback.

The Reds left the O's with runners on the corners in the bottom frame and stuffed them 1-2-3 in the fifth and sixth exchanges, but the Orioles responded in similar fashion to secure the victory.

Orioles' Rabauliman batted 2-for-3 with two runs.

## PROA

From Page 24

the second pairing, but went cold after the break, and left the door open for a strong 47-31 come-from-behind victory by Proa.

Meanwhile, Rollers 2 outran the CNMI Jr. National Girls Basketball Team, 67-49, in the last scheduled matchup thanks to an overdue fourth quarter push.

Hi-5 came ready to compete on Saturday and erected a 10-6 lead in the opening 10 minutes thanks largely to 6 points from Jethro Cruz.

The team stuck to its defensive scheme in the second quarter and maintained the edge at halftime, 20-15, from a pair of 3-pointers late in the period.

Surprised by its deficit midway through the game, Proa made



**Seahawks  
stun Packers  
on final play,  
14-12**

PAGE 21



# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Hendriks gives  
up 4 homers;  
Yankees top  
Twins**

PAGE 22

24 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## UCC vs Kiss My Pass in finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**K**iss My Pass and UCC will dispute the championship of the 2012 Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League tonight, following their separate semifinals wins at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



UCC advanced to the finals first after shutting out Ichiban in the third quarter of last Monday's curtain raiser en route to a 62-32 victory, while Kiss My Pass followed suit after thumping IDK Who, 55-38, in the nightcap. The UCC-Kiss My Pass winner-take-all finale will be played at 7pm after the battle for third place between Ichiban and IDK Who.

Four UCC players scored in double figures in their 30-point victory over Ichiban. Kyla Ito fired 19 points, Rachel Abrams and Kaylani Lebria added 14 each, and Madeleine Alegre contributed 10.

Czarina Lizama had 13 for Ichiban, which gave UCC quite a scare in the opening period before folding up in the last three quarters. Lizama led Ichiban's good start, nailing 10 of her total output in the first quarter to lift her team to an 18-10 advantage.

A sluggish UCC started the semis game sans Abrams and only Alegre and Lebria made more than one field goal for the top-ranked squad.

Abrams then arrived in the second quarter and contributed early, opening the period with back-to-back baskets, while Ito dropped 8 straight markers and fin-

**See UCC on Page 23**

UCC's Rachel Abrams goes up for an uncontested shot during their regular season game against Ichiban in the Kanoa caging at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



### Proa, Rollers 2 nab wins in U16 caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Madson Consulting's Proa and Rollers Basketball Club's Rollers 2 were triumphant against separate opponents as the Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League's U16 age division picked up last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Both victors evened out their respective win-loss records to

1-1, while the CNMI Jr. National Basketball Team and RBC's Rollers 1 were each gifted forfeit wins to keep their cards flawless at 2-0.

After Rollers 1's forfeit win to its absentee sister team, D-South (0-2), a resurgent Hi-5 (0-2) squad controlled the pace early on and established two-possession lead at the half over the defending champion Proa in

**See PROA on Page 23**



Rollers 2's Michael Espinosa streaks to the basket in Saturday's Rotary U16 division matchup held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

WALTER SUTHERLAND-CEPEDA

### Soccer referees, coaches pass course



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The graduates of the NMIFA grassroots coaching course show their certificates of completion during the presentation ceremony last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Twenty-six individuals received their certificates for completing various courses Northern Mariana

Islands Football Association conducted in August and early this month.

For the basic referee course, 11 were handed certificates last Sunday during the presentation ceremony that concurred with the launching of

the M-League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Receiving their certificate of completion from NMIFA president Jerry Tan were Dale Balles-teros, Melissa Borja, Joel Fruit, Jeon Park, Jeong Ho Kim, Greg

**See SOCCER on Page 23**

### Orioles still soaring in U18 Triple A baseball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



The Orioles are still flying high in the Department of Youth Services' U18 Triple A Youth Baseball League season, which continued late last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield after enduring over a weeklong suspension due to heavy rain.

The O's held on to defeat the Reds, 5-1, on Saturday, and humbled its rival who had just rallied past the Rockies, 5-3, last Thursday.

Notably, the Rockies had just taken a 2-1 lead over the Dodgers in the top of the third inning of Saturday's late match when heavy rain called for suspension of play. There were two outs and a runner on first base when the umpires called everyone off

**See ORIOLES on Page 23**



Reds southpaw pitcher Lancaster Sechamidal uncorks a pitch in a previous DYS-Triple A U18 Youth Baseball League matchup held at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND